

# **ROBERT STAGG AND FAMILY**

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## **Introduction**

The following is a brief account of the Stagg family who worked for the Governor and Company for Smelting down Lead with Pit Coal and Sea Coal. This company has become more commonly known as the 'London Lead Company' (although not by the Company itself), and in the following text will be referred to by this name or merely as the 'company'. A 'Court of Assistants' ran the company that was elected each year by the shareholders. The Court Minutes are referred to frequently in the text and can be seen at North of England Institute of Mining & Mechanical Engineers to whom I must express my thanks for giving me permission to quote from these minute books. Similarly, my thanks must go to the family of Arthur Raistrick for allowing me to use references from his publications.

## **THE STAGG FAMILY**

The influence of the Stagg family on the London Lead Company cannot be underestimated, members of the family worked for the company from approximately 1775 until 1891.

The earliest members of the Stagg family that I have traced are as follows:

Robert Stagg born about 1685, (may have had a brother John living at Garrigill who married Dorothy Smith 10<sup>th</sup> June 1708, at St John, Garrigill) at Garrigill buried 3<sup>rd</sup> June 1761 at St John, Garrigill, he married Elizabeth Vipond 28<sup>th</sup> November 1704 at St John, Garrigill.

Children:

1. Elizabeth born about 1705 married Alben Bell 9<sup>th</sup> May 1732 at St John Garrigill.

2. Joshua born about 1716-20

Elizabeth wife of Robert Stagg was buried at Garrigill 27<sup>th</sup> May 1749, at Garrigill

Robert Stagg of Howgill, was buried at Garrigill 3<sup>rd</sup> June 1761

2. Joshua Stagg married Jane Parcevil 29<sup>th</sup> November 1739 at Addingham, Cumberland

Children:

a. Elizabeth baptised 12<sup>th</sup> November 1740 at St John, Garrigill, Elizabeth Stagg, born at Addingham, married to Robert Hall 2<sup>nd</sup> June 1763, at St John, Garrigill, witness Isaac Vipond and Robert Stagg.

b. Ruth baptised 1<sup>st</sup> September 1745, married Joseph Dickinson 12<sup>th</sup> May 1768, at St John, Garrigill

c. Robert baptised 30<sup>th</sup> December 1742 married Rachel Gascoigne 29<sup>th</sup> May 1770, at Milburn, Westmorland.

d. Joshua baptised 16<sup>th</sup> June 1749, at St John Garrigill referred to as Joshua Stagg senior in Company records.

e. Jane baptised 17<sup>th</sup> August 1751, at St John Garrigill, buried 15<sup>th</sup> June 1752, at St John, Garrigill.

f. John Stagg baptised 1754, at St John, Garrigill, buried 28<sup>th</sup> March 1794 at Alston?

g Jane Stagg baptised 23<sup>rd</sup> October 1757 at St John, Garrigill, married John Todd 8<sup>th</sup> May 1780, burial 25<sup>th</sup> June 1799, Middleton, her husband John, shop keeper, was buried 19<sup>th</sup> August 1803, at Middleton.

h. Hannah Stagg baptised 3<sup>rd</sup> July 1760, at St John, Garrigill, married Anthony Steele 15<sup>th</sup> October 1789, at Middleton, burial 29<sup>th</sup> January 1798 at Barnard Castle.

Jane Parcival Stagg was buried 6<sup>th</sup> November 1779 at St John, Garrigill, her husband Joshua Stagg was buried 10<sup>th</sup> November 1773 also at St John, Garrigill.

The first of the Stagg family to have worked for the company (as far as is known) was Joshua Stagg Senior (2d). He worked as a miner in Teesdale in 1775 and was later promoted to mine agent in Upper Teesdale.<sup>1</sup> The minutes of the Lead Company of 29<sup>th</sup> April 1797 show that his salary was raised £5 to £40 per year. In 1810 his role was expanded and he was instructed to “*give the whole of his attention to the mining in Teesdale.*” For this he was to receive a salary of £100. In March 1812, this was confirmed and his salary was increased to £120 per year, in 1815 his salary was further increased to £140.

The General Index book states in 1813, that Joshua Stagg uncle of the Superintendent was a “very superior practical miner & mine agent in Teesdale, and in 1815 it was recorded that he had been in the Company’s service about 40 years.

Joshua died at Romaldkirk aged 67 years and was buried at Egglestone, 26<sup>th</sup> January 1817. He was the son of Joshua & Jane Stagg of Garrigill, on 25<sup>th</sup> May 1773 he married Mary Dickinson, at St John, Garrigill. They had a daughter Jane baptised 20<sup>th</sup> March 1774 at St John, Garrigill.

On the 10<sup>th</sup> April 1779, Joshua (widower) married Susannah Currah, at St Augustine’s, Alston.

Their children were:

1. Elizabeth baptised 21<sup>st</sup> February 1780 at Garrigill.
2. John baptised 21<sup>st</sup> March 1782 he died at Darlington on 29<sup>th</sup> April 1844, he had been a Timber and Lead merchant at Stockton on Tees. See the Will of John Stagg.
3. Joshua junior born 16<sup>th</sup> May 1783, baptised 16<sup>th</sup> May 1784 at Garrigill.
4. Robert baptised 6<sup>th</sup> August 1786 at Middleton in Teesdale, who was buried at Egglestone 11<sup>th</sup> July 1813 aged 27 years.
5. Susanna born about 1787/8, Susanna died 14 May 1794 aged 6 years.
6. Ruth baptised 2<sup>nd</sup> May 1790 at Egglestone, and buried 13<sup>th</sup> July 1790 at Middleton in Teesdale.

Susannah was buried at Middleton on 11<sup>th</sup> December 1790, Joshua remarried on 4<sup>th</sup> August 1793 at Middleton, to Dorothy Firbank, she died in 1808 she was buried at Egglestone on 17<sup>th</sup> October 1808.

1. Elizabeth Stagg married William Barnes, 11<sup>th</sup> August 1807, at Middleton in Teesdale.

Children of William & Elizabeth Barnes:

John Stagg baptised 10<sup>th</sup> July 1808, at Eggleston

Jane baptised 24<sup>th</sup> August 1815, at Romaldkirk

William Barnes baptised 30<sup>th</sup> October 1817, at Romaldkirk

Joshua baptised 15<sup>th</sup> November 1821, at Romaldekirk  
Susan Margaret baptised 18<sup>th</sup> November 1823, at Romaldekirk

In 1841, at Eggleston, William Barnes, Agent, aged 55, his wife Elizabeth aged 60, children, John, Agent aged 30, Jane 25, Joshua 14, and Susan aged 15.  
In 1851, at Eggleston, Elizabeth Barnes, annuitant, aged 71, son in law, Joseph Helmer, Surgeon, aged 36, and daughter, Susan Margaret Helmer aged 27.



Sacred  
To the Memory of  
William Barnes of Eggleston who died July 13<sup>th</sup> 1844  
Aged 64 years  
Also William his second  
Son who died December 10<sup>th</sup> 1840  
Aged 25 years  
Also Joshua his third son  
Who died May 12<sup>th</sup> 1845  
Aged 23 years  
John Stagg his eldest son  
Who died at Mount Pelion in  
Thessaly March 22<sup>nd</sup> 1856  
Aged 47 years  
Also of Elizabeth his wife who  
Died April 24<sup>th</sup> 1860  
Aged 80 years

William Barnes was the Agent to the Duke of Cleveland responsible for the Duke's Estate and Lead Mines at Middleton in Teesdale.

**Elizabeth Barnes Probate** 11<sup>th</sup> December 1860. The Will of Elizabeth Barnes late of Eggleston in the County of Durham Widow deceased who died 24 April 1860 at Eggleston aforesaid was proved at Durham by the oath of Joshua Byers of Stockton in the said County Merchant the Nephew and one of the Executors.

Joshua Stagg Junior. also worked for the Lead Company, he worked at Egglestone Mill the minutes of 29<sup>th</sup> April 1801 show he was earning £20 per annum, increased in 1804 to £30.

In 1810 the company awarded him an extra £25 for accompanying Robert Stagg to Newcastle, this was to collect the money needed to pay the miners subsistence and wages, which were collected from Ridley & Co. bankers (Robert had taken over the duties of his brother Joseph following his death in 1809). He was also appointed the mill agent at Egglestone; and his salary increased to £80, in 1812 this was further increased to £120 per annum, in 1816 it was recorded that he was also to help his father at Middleton. Joshua Stagg junior died 12<sup>th</sup> April 1824 at Egglestone aged 40 years. He and his wife Bridget (Allinson, married 4<sup>th</sup> May 1809, at Romaldekirk) had a son Joshua Currah Stagg, who had been baptised at Egglestone on 10<sup>th</sup> September 1809. On his death, his wife Bridget was awarded an annuity of £50 by the Company.<sup>2</sup>



Sacred  
to the memory  
of Susanna wife of Joshua Stagg who died 11  
Dec. 1790 aged 30 years.  
Also Ruth their daughter who died 8 July 1790  
aged 10 weeks. Also Susanna their daughter  
who died 14 May 1794 aged 6 years. Also  
Robert their son who died 8 July 1813 aged 27  
years.  
Also the above named Joshua Stagg  
who died 23 day January 1817  
aged 67 years.

Joshua Currah Stagg was appointed as Clerk for the Company at Long Marton in Westmorland, on a salary of £40<sup>3</sup>, the company owned Marton House at this time. The minutes of the company recorded on 17<sup>th</sup> March 1831, *"To advance the salaries of John Bell and Joshua Stagg ten pounds each for the past year with an additional increase of ten pounds per annum till the same amounts to £100 a year."* This is the last entry that refers to Joshua Currah Stagg, in 1832 he resigned his position with the company.<sup>4</sup>

The 1847 "Whites Directory" tells us that he was a Timber Merchant at Stockton on Tees. He married Margaret Dale at Stockton, 31st July 1855. In 1861, at Albion Street, Stockton, Joshua C Stagg, retired Timber Merchant, aged 50, born Eggleson, and his wife Margaret aged 38.

Joshua died at Stockton, and was buried at Holy Trinity Stockton 16th December 1869, aged 60 years.



Here lies  
the body of Joshua  
Second son of the late  
Joshua and Susanna Stagg  
who died April 8<sup>th</sup> 1824  
Aged 40 years.  
Also his widow Bridget Stagg  
who died 4<sup>th</sup> March 1865  
Aged 88 years.

Joshua Stagg senior's brother Robert (senior) also worked for the company. He began working for them in 1775<sup>5</sup>; the first reference to Robert in the Court minutes was on Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> September 1778. *"Resolved that Robert Stagg be appointed agent to the Company's several mines in Yorkshire and Teesdale at the salary of £40 per annum."* When the company appointed an agent to any of its works it was customary for the agent to supply a bond to the company.

The bond submitted by Robert Stagg is given below.<sup>6</sup>

*Bond between Robert Stagg, Joshua Stagg the Elder and Joshua Stagg the younger and the Company dated the 1st December 1778*

*Know all Men by these present that we Robert Stagg of Garrigill gate, Joshua Stagg the Elder and Joshua Stagg the younger of Howgillsike all in the parish of Garrigill in the County of Cumberland Gentlemen are held and firmly bound to the Governor and Company for the Smelting down of lead with pit coal and sea coal in the sum of Three Hundred Pounds of Good and Lawful Money of Great Britain to be paid to the said Governor and Company or their certain Attorney Successors or Assigns for the true payment where of we bind our selves and each of us our respective heirs executors and administrators and each of them firmly by these presents sealed with our seals dated this first day of December in the Nineteenth year of the reign of our sovereign Lord George the third by the Grace of God of Great Britain France and Ireland King Defender of the Faith and so forth and in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and seventy eight.*

*Whereas the above bounder Robert Stagg is chosen and admitted a Mineral Agent to the said Governor and Company in the North of England The condition of this obligation is such that if the said Robert Stagg do and shall from time to time and at all times hereafter during his continuance in the service of the said governor and Company faithfully and honestly execute and discharge the said service and every other service of the said Governor and Company wherein he is shall or may be employed and faithfully account for all such sums of money as he shall receive or may be intrusted with on behalf of the said Governor and Company. Then this obligation to be void and of none effect else to be and remain in full force and virtue.*

*Signed Sealed and Delivered  
(being first duly stamped)  
in the presence of  
Thomas Hall  
Thomas Friend*

*Robert Stagg  
Joshua Stagg Elder  
Joshua Stagg younger*

His responsibilities were increased in 1781 to include assisting with the care of Egglestone mill, and to assist with the inspections of the companies Derwent mines, but without an increase in salary. The records of the family show that after this appointment he and his family moved to Middleton in Teesdale. His work impressed the Court and in 1782 his salary was increased. *"The Court taking into consideration the faithful and diligent service of Robert Stagg their agent at their mines and mills in Yorkshire."*

*"Resolved that his salary be advanced from £40 to £50 per annum to commence from Midsummer last."*

In 1786 his salary was further increased to £100 per annum. The Court, *"Having taken into consideration the diligence and assiduity manifested by Robert Stagg in the Company's concerns."* He not only carried out work for the company in the North of England but also in other areas that the company had interests, in 1787 he inspected the companies concerns in the Isle of Man, and in 1788 he viewed the mines in Glamorganshire. Robert was also keen to improve the companies' productivity at the smelt mills and to this end he experimented with the use of Air Furnaces, this is recorded in a minute of Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> December 1788. *"The Court having taken into consideration the Experimental operations by Robert Stagg of the Air Furnace in competition with the Blast Hearth are of opinion that it will be for the interest of this Company to make use of Air Furnaces."*

*"Resolved that Air Furnaces be erected throughout the Company's works as soon as conveniently may be."*

In 1793 in order that Thomas Dodd the companies Chief Mining Agent could employ more time in dealing with mines on Alston Moor, Robert Stagg was given the responsibility of looking after the Weardale mines, as well as his other duties.

In 1795 Robert was promoted to being the, "Superintendent over all the Company's Smelting works and the ore and lead carriers and forwarding the lead from the several mills to Blaydon and Stockton, and also to attend Thomas Hall when he makes the advance pays to the miners, smelters and carriers and to assist him therein." On taking up this post he was to move from Middleton in Teesdale to Alston. Thomas Hall the company cashier resigned his post in 1796 and the minutes of 2<sup>nd</sup> June 1795 record that, *"Robert Stagg be appointed from Ladyday next Cashier and Superintendent over all the Company Smelting works and washing the ore and of the ore and lead carriers and of forwarding the lead from the several mills to Blaydon and Stockton in the room of Thomas Hall."*

Robert was to receive £130 per annum, and the company was to provide a house in the neighbourhood of Alston, for the use of the company and for Robert to live in. In 1808, he was suffering from great ill health, in a letter to the company dated 11<sup>th</sup> May 1808 he refers to this: *"... for I am so weak I am unable to write myself, all I can do is to dictate to my son."*<sup>7</sup>

Robert died on 7<sup>th</sup> June 1808 and was buried at Alston. He had married Rachael Gaskin/Gascoigne of Kirbythore on 29<sup>th</sup> May 1770 at Milburn Westmorland; his wife died 26<sup>th</sup> March 1804 aged 54 years.

Their children were:

1. Rachael baptised 17<sup>th</sup> March 1771 at Garrigill, married William Richardson 29<sup>th</sup> July 1792, at Middleton. See Administration of Robert Richardson 1870.
2. Joshua born 21<sup>st</sup> March 1773, buried 10<sup>th</sup> November 1773 at Garrigill.
3. Joseph baptised 2<sup>nd</sup> October 1774 at Garrigill.
4. Jane born 15<sup>th</sup> December 1776, baptised at Garrigill, she married John Elliott of Allendale, at Alston on 17<sup>th</sup> January 1811, they had a daughter Mary.
5. Mary born 29<sup>th</sup> November 1778, baptised at Alston, she died 28<sup>th</sup> June 1808 at Alston.
6. Robert born 21<sup>st</sup> September 1781 and baptised 14<sup>th</sup> October 1781, at St Mary the Virgin, Middleton in Teesdale.

7. Ruth baptised 11<sup>th</sup> July 1784 at Middleton in Teesdale. Ruth married Joseph Little, at Alston St Augustine's, 23rd April 1811, she died 28th December 1811, aged 27 years.
8. John baptised 19<sup>th</sup> November 1786 at Middleton in Teesdale, John was "dumb" and in his will Robert appointed his son Robert and his daughters Jane, Mary, and Ruth as John's guardians.

3. Joseph Stagg, Robert's son also worked for the Lead Company. The minutes of Thursday the 18<sup>th</sup> October 1798 tell us that Joseph Stagg was to be appointed to supply in part the place of the late Joseph Watson to take charge of the silver forwarded to Newcastle and to make up the operations monthly, at a salary of £15 per annum. In 1801 his salary was increased to £30. At the age of 28 years he was appointed as acting agent at Acton smelt mill (September 1803), replacing Joshua Watson who had died, up to that time he had been assisting his father. He must have impressed the company as, in August 1804 his post was made permanent, he was to be paid a salary of £60 for taking care of the smelting works, and assisting his father as usual. In October of that year following a letter sent to the Court by his father, it was decided that he was to be paid £75 for the time he had managed Acton mill following the death of Joshua Watson. His position as Agent at Acton Mill was confirmed, at a salary of £60 per annum, independent of the £30 per annum that he was paid to assist his father, this to commence from Michaelmas 1804.

Following the death of his father in 1808 Joseph was appointed to succeed his father on a salary of £200 per year, and a house, as Cashier and Superintendent of all the Company's Smelting works of washing the ore and of the ore and lead carriers and forwarding the lead from the smelting mills to Blaydon.

Joseph unfortunately suffered from ill health and asked the Court for his brother Robert to assist him, in a letter dated 19<sup>th</sup> October 1808,<sup>8</sup> to Mr Masterman he refers to a request he had made to the company, to employ his brother Robert, the minutes of the company record that on the 13<sup>th</sup> April 1809 Robert was appointed as agent at Stanhope mill, at a salary of £150. The Courts instruction to Joseph was:

*"To inform the Court whether your brother be free from all arrangements, in which case it is the Court's intentions to meet your wishes by appointing him (for the present) agent at Stanhope Mill, upon the principle that he be instructed by you, till he shall gain a competent knowledge to fill his situation – he is also to assist you as above mentioned and to prepare (under your directions) all documents necessary for the Company's accounts."*

What Robert's occupation was before this date is not recorded.

Joseph died 19<sup>th</sup> November 1809 aged 35 years, he left his wife Ruth (daughter of Joseph Dickinson) whom he had married on 8<sup>th</sup> May 1806 at Dufton.

They had lived at Jollybeard House in Alston, and as well as working for the Lead Company he had a share in a candle making business in Alston.

They had two children:

1. Joseph Dickinson Stagg born 4<sup>th</sup> March 1807, buried at Dufton 8<sup>th</sup> November 1823
2. Robert Walter Stagg born 23<sup>rd</sup> January 1809.

Ruth Stagg did not remarry, in 1841, at St Sidwell, Devon, Robert Stagg, independent aged 30, and his mother Ruth Stagg, independent, aged 65. Ruth died 4th quarter of 1849, her death was registered at Honiton, Devonshire.

The high regard that the company had for him is reflected in the minutes:

*“Ordered that the salary of the Company’s late cashier Joseph Stagg be paid to his executors to year end 31 December next.”*

*“Resolved that the sum of £100 be presented to Mrs. Stagg widow of Joseph Stagg the Company’s late cashier and mill agent.”*

Following the death of Joseph his brother Robert was appointed in his place by a resolution of the Court dated 24<sup>th</sup> May 1810, at the same salary £200, (this was increased to £300, and then in 1812 to £500 per annum.) as his brother Joseph. Joseph Little was appointed to take over Roberts agency at Stanhope Mill. In 1811 Robert was also given the Superintendency of Coanwood colliery. Robert like his father was keen to employ more efficient methods of smelting, and wrote to the Court in a letter dated 26<sup>th</sup> August 1811, recommending the introduction of Roasting Furnaces, in September the decision was taken to build a Roasting Furnace at Nenthead; this was just the start of many advances in smelting methods that were implemented under his supervision. As well as making great improvements at the smelt mills he also implemented a number of changes at the mines, modernising the dressing floors and changing the methods of working the mines so as to more efficiently use the labour force. Perhaps one of his most important changes was to renegotiate the leases. The original mine leases usually stipulated the number of pickmen that were to work the ground, and in order to retain the lease the company had to employ this number, in large mines such as Rampgill and Smallcleugh mines, which were covered by a number of leases this resulted in a great waste of labour. He managed to have the leases combined, which gave him greater flexibility in the use of his work force.

The company regularly showed their appreciation of his work for them, on the 11<sup>th</sup> November 1813 they awarded him £500, “as a mark of the Courts high approbation of his services in conducting the affairs of the Company.”

In 1812 the company decided that he should move from Alston to the company’s house at Stanhope, and that he should set up an office there. In February 1814 Robert Stagg was given responsibility for the Teesdale mines, for which he was to receive an additional £100 per year. He was given the additional responsibility for Teesdale because Thomas Dodd the company’s chief agent had asked the Court to relieve him of this post due to his increased age and ill health. At this time, the Court also asked Robert to arrange for a house to be built at Nenthead for an agent. In February 1816 Robert was appointed superintendent of the Weardale mines as well as his other responsibilities, due to the worsening health of Thomas Dodd.

Following the death of Thomas Dodd, he was appointed General Superintendent of the Company’s mines and concerns in the North with the addition to his salary of £100 per annum.

Company records show that Robert had a bout of ill-health in 1813. There was a return of his complaint “in his breast” in July of 1816 and the Court gave him

leave to “quit the works” for a few weeks to recuperate. An Order of the Court, 10 June 1816 *stated* “*That during the winter months, the superintendent have an attendant in his weekly visits to the Mines.*”

Due to the difficulties, he had encountered following taking on his new role, in 1816 he contemplated resigning, it appears that the Court persuaded him to stay and in appreciation the Court bought him a ‘Compass Watch’ for which they paid £17 12s 6d.

In a letter of 18<sup>th</sup> November 1816, it was reported that there had been a return of his chest complaint and the Court recommended that “*he will depute the Agents to make in consequence of his bad state of health the annual Reckonings with the Men*”, which he declined. In a letter of 28<sup>th</sup> December 1816, the Court ordered that he was to go to the South for 3 or 4 months - “and permission was given to avail himself of the opportunity to visit the Mines in Cornwall and Derbyshire – if his health permit.” His mining reports during this period were written by Joseph Little and John Millican.

Poor health concerned him throughout his life but despite his own ill health, he did not neglect his workmen, in his Michaelmas report of 1816 he expressed his concerns.

“The earnings of the workmen as far as we can yet judge have been exceedingly small the last year in all districts, not I believe exceeding £30 each upon an average of the whole concern and the annexed Bargains are expected to average very little higher but unless an unlooked-for reduction take place in the price of provisions it will not be possible for the men to exist on these wages as a continuing average, indeed the whole of these counties exhibit at present a scene of poverty and want which is most distressing.”

Robert advocated the supply of Corn to the workmen in consequence of the high prices stating that the Millers in the Mining Districts “exact exorbitant profits, which the labouring classes have no means of remedying themselves owing to the distance from markets”

The result of this was that the Company authorised corn to be obtained at Newcastle, and to be issued to the men “at a certain price according to the rate of wages paid them”. Rye was to be sold at a loss of about 5/- per Boll, and wheat sold at cost price. John Millican the District Agent at Nenthead records in his Journal that the men were supplied with oatmeal in 1817

In 1818 the Company recorded a loss of £97 17s 5d on the sale of Rye & Corn to the men.

The Company’s appreciation for the work he was doing is reflected in their decision to increase his salary by £200 making it £1000 a year, “*and to grant an annuity of £300 thereof, for 14 years certain*” – to accumulate for the benefit of his family this decision was confirmed by the Court 23<sup>rd</sup> October 1817.

During his period in charge Robert Stagg did a great deal to improve the quality of life for the workmen, houses were built at Nenthead and Middleton in Teesdale, reading rooms were established, and the education of the children was put on a sound footing, the Company building and financing schools. On 19<sup>th</sup> February 1818 the Court resolved, “*that two schools as recommended by*

*Mr. Stagg in his letter of the 7<sup>th</sup> January be established".* They gave directions to Robert Stagg to prepare a building at Middleton in Teesdale and another in Nenthead in Alston Moor, each capable of accommodating 200 children to be opened as schools on the 1st day of next May, and by a resolution of this Court held on 19<sup>th</sup> February 1818 it was ordered:

*"That the masters of the said schools should be members of the Church of England and that the children be required to attend public worship twice every Sunday leaving the option of the place to the parents."*

Robert was also concerned with the Working Men's Fund. In a resolution of 6<sup>th</sup> December 1810 the Company had established a fund for the 'Relief of maimed and decayed Workmen' employed by the Company. The men ran it as a traditional friendly society, with a subsidy from the Company. The scheme was suspended in 1815 but re-established in 1817, for Sickness, & Medical Aid, to include their wives, children and widows.

It became compulsory for all miners working for the Company to contribute to the scheme the subscription was 30/- per year. This led to a strike in December 1817 at Alston Moor, the men refusing to allow the subscription to the fund to be taken automatically from their wages at the annual reckoning. Robert was away due to poor health at this time, but the instruction by the Court was that "all workmen who do not immediately return to duty will be dismissed for ever from the works". The strike was suppressed and the ringleaders given up.<sup>9</sup>

The problem that such societies had was to maintain a balance between income and the money paid in benefits; many societies collapsed due to such an imbalance. In 1827, the fund became insolvent, the payments made being too large for the fund. The fund was taken over by the Company and membership was made compulsory for all employees. On Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> October 1827, *"The Court agreed with the recently returned deputation to the North that great advantage would arise to the concern at large if the Workmen's Fund be placed upon a proper foundation for the future provision not only of the men in the Company's employ who may be disabled from labour by sickness but also for the benefits of widows and children after their decease"*.

On 1<sup>st</sup> November 1827, they *"Resolved that the Superintendent be directed to transfer to the general accounts of mines whatever balance may remain against the workmen's fund on the 31<sup>st</sup> October and that any arrangements which may be hereafter adopted upon that subject be made to take effect from this day."*

Before the Company took over the Workmen's fund the fund committee paid for a medical officer; but the Lead Company decided that they would take over complete responsibility for supplying medical help. The first appointments were made at Nenthead and Middleton in Teesdale, the doctors were to be given houses rent free and the doctor at Teesdale was to be paid £300 per annum and the doctor at Alston Moor, £150.

In July 1818, the Court was informed that Robert had a "decided Liver Complaint" and an enlargement on his side; for the sake of his health he had moved to Ryehope in 1816, being unable to reside at Middleton for health

reasons. Company records are a little unclear but they suggest he may have returned to Middleton in 1818, and in the winter of 1818 there was another relapse of his complaint and it was stated that his lungs were in a very delicate state.<sup>10</sup>

A letter of 22<sup>nd</sup> October 1818 reported that his salary was to be increased to £1000 per annum, clear of the £300 a year to be invested in his annuity, this was in gratitude for *“the intense application, the extraordinary difficulties he has had to encounter, and what his unremitting exertions have accomplished, at the sacrifice of his health and comfort”*.

It was decided that for the benefit of his health that he should live in Long Marton, Westmoreland, this proved to be a great benefit. In 1821 his salary was further increased to £1200, “with the Court’s hearty concurrence” and the Court *“recognises with increased feeling of approbation, the order and arrangement, which prevail in the several departments under his direction”*.

A comparatively uninterrupted year of health in 1823 enabled him to “examine and reduce every item of expenditure, where capable of admitting of any economy”. He also made a visit to the Mines in Cornwall. In 1823 the Court commissioned a portrait of Robert Stagg which was painted by James Ramsay (James Ramsay, (1786–1854), portrait painter, was the son of Robert Ramsay (1754–1828) of Sheffield) and was hung in 1824 in the Company’s house in London.<sup>11</sup>

In 1824 following the visit of the Court deputation to the North, it was decided to award Robert Stagg as a token of their approbation, £1000. In response to this Robert wrote a letter of thanks to the Court:

*18th November 1824 LLC 20*

*Letter from R Stagg to the Court.*

*Sirs.*

*I know not how to acknowledge in adequate terms the obligation conferred upon me by the resolution of the Court of the 11th Inst. conveyed to me in so flattering a manner, through the medium of the Governor.*

*The very great liberality of the Court excites my warmest feelings of gratitude, yet I*

*am still more sensibly affected and gratified by the decided expression of their continued approbation, contained in that resolution.*

*Conscious of insufficiency of my utmost efforts to make a suitable return for these*

*repeated instances of liberality and kindness I can only renew to the Court the assurance, that whatever degree of ability and health I may possess, shall continue to be faithfully and exclusively employed in endeavours to promote the prospect of the concern.*

*I am very respectfully*

*Gentlemen*

*your humble servant*

*Robert Stagg*

The Company records state that in 1826 Robert had a serious accident but no further details are given.<sup>12</sup>

The Court minutes of 25th October 1827 record:

*“The Court deemed it proper on the present occasion to record their highest approval of the general conduct of their valuable Superintendent Mr Stagg in the general management and economy of the Company’s concerns in the North and most particularly as regards the workings of Alston Moor which have been so pointedly brought to their notice by the reports of the Deputation whereby it is clearly shown that notwithstanding the very unfavourable circumstances under which Mr Stagg commenced the operation in that quarter the most beneficial results have accrued to the Company.*

*Resolved that a piece of plate of the value £150 with a suitable inscription be presented to Mr Stagg as a mark of approbation from this Court of the indefatigable, zeal and ability continued to be evinced by that gentleman in promoting the interests of the Lead Company.”*

In 1828, he suffered a serious accident when his pony fell and trod on him, no further information is recorded.<sup>13</sup>

Robert Stagg was not a well man; suffering a chest complaint as well as back problem, as is reflected in a letter received by the Court on the 5<sup>th</sup> April 1832. *“I have lately been so tormented with a pain in my back that I am wholly unable, at present to undertake a journey to town although otherwise my health is fully good as usual. The pain I suffered in travelling from Hilton to this place last week demanded all the enduring fortitude I could command although in a chaise and the distance only 25 miles. But as the next bargains will not be let until the month of June, I hope the setting in of warmer weather may sufficiently relieve the rheumatic affliction, to enable me to meet the Court in the interim should they still desire it.”*

In July 1834, there was again concern regarding his health but he recovered sufficiently to visit Wales in September of that year. In 1835, he visited the mines of Derbyshire with his son “to examine into state of Mining there and report thereof”.

His health deteriorated in 1838 and despite taking leave to go to Harrogate in 1838 his health remained poor. Following a severe bilious fever he proposed to resign in the spring of 1839 and once again he was encouraged to stay and in June 1839 he moved to Dishforth, in Yorkshire, for his health.

The Court continued to be concerned for his health as the minute of Thursday the 5th September 1839 shows:

*“Following the Courts deputation to the North giving their report.*

*“The Court feel deeply the state of health of their Superintendent Mr Robert Stagg and having taken into their consideration the amount of salary to be paid to him under the new arrangements as detailed in the social report. Resolved that the sum be fixed at one thousand pounds per annum from Michaelmas next.”*

In November of 1838 he received a petition from miners in the Teesdale district requesting that the Company supply them with rye, due to the high price of corn; he passed the request on to the Court who agreed to do so.

The minutes of 6<sup>th</sup> December 1838 record:

*"Mr. Harris reported that he had purchased at Newcastle through Messrs. Pollard and Co. 250 quarters of foreign Rye at 48/- per quarter and that he had communicated such purchase to Mr. Stagg and given directions to Messrs. Pollard to follow the instructions of the Superintendent as to forwarding it to the interior."*

On 1<sup>st</sup> September 1842 the Court heard from the Report of the deputation to the North that he had decided to retire. *"The Court have heard with deep feelings of regret that part of the report of the Deputation who recently visited the Company's works in the North relating to the impaired state of health of Mr Robert Stagg which renders him unable any longer to hold the situation of Superintendent of their affairs, a trust to which he was appointed upwards of 25 years since and the duties of which he discharged with such credit to himself and advantage to the Company, as to make the Company desirous of recording the deep sense they entertain of his conduct"*.

#### Appointments.

13 April 1809                      Agent at Stanhope Mill.

24 May 1810                      Cashier and Superintendent of all the Smelting works etc.

24 February 1814                Superintendent of the Teesdale mines.

25 April 1816                      General Superintendent of the Company's mines and concerns in the North.

*"It appears to the Court to be superfluous to enter into any minute particulars of the service of Mr Stagg for whether they look to the reports of former deputation's which allude to various abuses and irregularities that had crept into the management of the concern at the period that he first took office, and to the correction of which his attention was immediately directed or to the indefatigable zeal and ability he has directed in making improvements in every branch of the concern (particularly in the washing of ore) as also by enforcing a rigid principle of economy in the working of the mines by the introduction of a general system of order and regularity among them, which has worked so successfully to the interest of the Company and to the welfare of the number of Human Beings placed under his influence. The Court can only come to the same conclusion, that he has most ably performed his duties and reiterate their sincere regards at the loss of his valuable services, as their General Superintendent, and the more particular so as to the cause which has led to his resignation of that situation.*

*"Resolved that a copy of the foregoing minute signed by the secretary be transmitted to Mr Robert Stagg with the fervent desire of this Court that in the office of cashier which he has consented to retain they may yet have the benefit for many years of his counsel and advice in the general condition of the concern."*

The Court asked Robert Stagg to enter into a negotiation with Robert Walton Bainbridge with a view to the appointing him General Mine Agent (Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> September 1840). The minutes of 17<sup>th</sup> September 1840 show that Robert Walton Bainbridge had accepted the post and was to be the General Mine Agent, as well as his current position as Law Agent, at a salary of £400 per annum.

Robert did agree to retain his post of Cashier, and in January 1850, the Court awarded him a salary of £500. In the event of him retiring from this appointment an allowance for the same amount would be continued to him for life. On 10<sup>th</sup> July 1851 the Court notes that he has tendered his resignation; as a result of this Robert Bainbridge who had been appointed as General Superintendent, also took the job of Cashier.

In 1843 a Time-piece and Bible presented were presented to him with the following inscription:

*"January 1843*

*Presented to Robert Stagg Esq on his retirement from the Superintendence of the Lead Company's Agents, Clerks, Overman and Workmen; as a token of their affectionate regard and esteem, and of their grateful remembrance of his numerous and successful efforts for the promotion of the best interests of every party engaged in the Company's Service."*

In the Court minutes of 8<sup>th</sup> November 1860, the following resolution was passed: *"That the plans submitted to the Court prepared by Mr. Habershow architect for the building of new school houses at Middleton and Nenthead (for containing about 300 children each) be approved and signed.*

*"Resolved that in each of the said school houses a marble tablet be fixed with the following inscription thereon.*

*"Testimonial to Robert Stagg esquire.*

*"For upwards of 25 years Superintendent of the Lead Company's works. In recognition of his indefatigable labours to promote the general interests of the Company and the welfare of the numerous body of workmen committed to his care, more especially for the invaluable service rendered by him in originating in the year 1818 the formation of the schools, to the use of which this building is dedicated."*

On 29<sup>th</sup> March 1864, the Court heard of the death of Robert Stagg, at Dishforth on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> March 1864.

**The General Index Book of the Company gives information relating to changes made in the Management of the Mines:<sup>14</sup>**

*"Much was effected from time to time as occasion offered for improvement and rendering more perfect the distribution, division, and general economy of labour both in the mines, the mills and other departments, but Mr Stagg always held that the most important improvement he made in the management of the concern was the introduction of Mine Overmen taken from the ranks. Prior thereto, the mine workings were visited by an Agent very rarely, leaving the miners to play tricks, & take advantage of all kinds; but the daily and hourly inspection of Overmen puts a final close to all such, with an improved economy which scarcely admits of being fully estimated."*

*“As the Overmen too, are always selected from the best and most skilful workmen, great encouragement is thereby held out for general good conduct, by the hope of preferment; and what is of infinite moment, the less skilful miners are constantly put into more skilful modes of performing their work, by the daily oversight and instruction they receive from the overlookers; and not less is the benefit of having thus a body of men in full training for mine agencies; and also as effectual checks on all chance of partiality being shown in fixing the Bargain Rates; for when the opinions are given for each bargain by all the Agents and Overmen; partiality is out of the question, and it is equally out of question for any essential error being perpetuated either in the fixing those rates, or in undertaking improper new operations in the face of so searching, and so practical a mining council, as is thus formed each quarter by the union of the Agents of each District, and of the resident Overmen of the mine to be inspected, who together examine & report separately on every working in progress, or that is proposed as a fitting object for trial; as well as on the economy of and proper use of wood, and of every other material consumed in the mines; also generally as to the state of the repairs & good condition of the mines when thus viewed.”*

*“As it is not in the power of the Superintendent to pass thro’ the mines (except on special occasions) proposes that responsible District Agents be established; and the whole of them do pass thro’ all the mines each quarter & give the Superintendent their separate report in writing of the state of the workings & of the Bargain Prices; which will give every possible security to the Company, stimulate each Agent to the utmost exertion & carry into the whole concern, the advantage of all the mining abilities of the whole of the Mining Agents. Letter 29<sup>th</sup> April 1816”*

Records show that in 1818 the Overmen were paid 18/- per week for the first year to rise to 20/- per week afterwards. In 1824, it was decided that Overmen after 3 years’ service were to be paid 25/- per week. By 1857 the records show that when a mine Overman had been in receipt of the present maximum salary of £100 for five years they were eligible for an increase of £10, and after another five years a further increase of £10 per year to a maximum of £120.<sup>15</sup>

#### **OTHER IMPROVEMENTS HE MADE:<sup>16</sup>**

	Year
Four man partnerships found advantageous	1815/1816
Mine Shops to be fitted out at Teesdale with beds &c., to prevent the necessity of the men traveling daily to and fro.	1817
To always have a certain number of Trials in progress in order to keep up a succession of Mines.	1817
Iron rails introduce to replace wood.	1817
Stone substitute for wood in arching of permanent levels.	1818
Working by the fathom	1819
Trial of Bargain Period extended 3 of 4 month each instead of 4 of 3 months	1820
Working in squares	1820
Washer Boys to be employed in the mines in winter	1820
Bargain Period extended 3 of 4 month made permanent	1821
All Drawing Levels, Shafts & Sumps required to be left open by leases are now constructed of Stone	1827

Two Man Partnerships established great advantage	1830
Bargains for Pickings extended to 4, 6 and 12 months	1835

### **MEMOIR OF ROBERT STAGG WRITTEN IN THE GENERAL INDEX OF THE COMPANY<sup>17</sup>**

One of the first abuses which he appears to have checked, applied solely to the office he himself held, "The Newcastle Bank had been in the habit for time immemorial of allowing to the Company's Cashier 50/- for £1000 in the notes given to him for the Company's Bills, for their monthly advance and yearly pays" this allowance he declined receiving without the sanction of the Court. (*Report of the Deputation 1810*)

And at his first settlement of accounts with the Merchants he put a stop to the custom of their giving fees to the Agents by insisting to have from them the full discount.

His whole attention was then directed to the economy of the concern in all its departments, and to check abuses wherever they had crept in. One of the principal of which was in direct violation of the Company's Positive orders, "that their servants should not be engaged in any other concerns" separate from the Company, and which had lately been infringed by their principal Agent. (*Reports of the Deputation 1810 & 1818*)

The extent to which there abuse had reached, may be gathered from the following – "We are decidedly of the opinion that the Mining department will never be conducted with full effect whilst the superintendence remains with Mr Dodd, and the under Agencies filled up by his numerous connexions; most, if not all, of whom look up to his for support, and we have reason to believe, that no having thought of mind to withstand their importunities, he has been led into his action and to connive at others, both injurious to the Company's interests and disreputable to himself. We cordially join in the opinion of the country that he is a very good Miner, & has many good qualities, but experience has proved him undesirable as a superintendent" (*Report of the Deputation 1813*)

His solicitude for the real welfares, and the admirable principle and decision with which he has managed, the number of Men under him are exemplified on all occasions viz. In taking a favourable opportunity for abolishing Partnership Drinkings. (*Report of the Deputation 1817*)

In preventing the Men from Poaching. In establishing Schools and their being no instance of sticking or refusing to work since 1818 – and this was a partial instance, no ways obliterating the general acknowledgements and thanks of the Workmen, in all the Districts, for their treatment since his appointment, which are contained in the Report of the Year 1817.

Taking advantage of the depressed state of the Lead Trade, "We have been enabled thereby to reduce the wages to a degree which would have been utterly impossible under more prosperous circumstances, and it will be my care to prevent an undue increase in better times; the workmen have also been forced into a very sensible improvement of their moral habits; Drunkenness (the Miners

prevailing Sin) is comparatively abolished amongst them and those lavish & extravagant habits, induced by their former high wages are in a great degree corrected." (*Letter to the Court dated 11<sup>th</sup> November 1816*)

Note. See his letter to the Court 29<sup>th</sup> April 1816, upon receiving his appointment as superintendent, admirably illustrating the Duties of the Office &c.

Report of the Deputation 1817: "We cannot close our report without congratulating the Court on the favourable change that has taken place in the Company's concerns in Alston Moor and Weardale, in consequence of the recent regulations which have been carried into effect under the present system of management. It will be seen by reference to page 43 in the report of the deputation of 1815 that the summary of savings then made amounted to £5647 per ann. and that they arose from the Mill department & from the Teasdale District. We have now the satisfaction of stating that in consequence of the improvements which have taken place in the several departments and the aforesaid regulations, the annual savings amount under a variety of times in the aggregate to upwards of £20,000 insuring therefore a profit this present year, notwithstanding the great depreciation in the price of Lead."

The principal of his other plans for the benefit of the Company, were; The discontinuing the Duke of Northumberland's audit – it being of no advantages to the Company but on the contrary a considerable expense, besides the risk of about £70,000 per annum during the times the Bankers bills remained unpaid. (*Report of the Deputation 1813*)

Arranging with the Newcastle Bankers to have their note, in exchange for the Company's Bills, delivered at Stanhope Castle (the then residence of the Cashier) "Whereby the risk of conveyance is done away – the superintendent will have at least 30 days in each year to devote to the services which these journeys occupied – travelling not less than 700 miles in the year, attended by an Agent whose time is most material elsewhere, besides the expense of the journeys." (*Report of the Deputation 1815*)

"It was represented to us by the superintendent that much benefit would arise to the Company, provided a general grant of the Nenthead Mines could be obtained, instead of so many separate Leases or Takes, as such an alteration would enable him to employ the number of Men, required by the conditions, to much more advantage than by dividing them upon each lease, and without prejudice to the G. H. Commissioners" (*Report of the Deputation 1817*)

This desirable object was after numerous interviews and applications at length accomplished & this district is thereby relieved from a charge equivalent to at least £1000 a year. (*Reports of the Deputation 1823, 14, 18*)

A similar general grant was likewise obtained from Lord Darlington for his mining ground in Teasdale and general grants to the Company have since been universal. (*Reports of the Deputation 1813, 1810, 1824*)

“Among the regulations introduced by Mr Stagg, that of recording every particular of the workings of each individual Mine and exemplifying them by Plans and Sections is of the greater utility” (*Report of the Deputation 1818*) and is now completely carried into effect these with the surface plans and surveys of the whole Mineral Ground in the four Districts, form a most valuable deposit of mining information, either for present use or for future reference. With these important documents, united to the detailed accounts which are compiled from the weekly reports of the underground Agents and Overmen, Mr Stagg has as complete an insight into the state of each mine, as if he was personally to pass through them.” (*Reports of the Deputation 1819, 1820, 1821*)

“Mr Taylor the mining Agent of Greenwich Hospital, after viewing our Mines in Alston Moor, reported that the Management in every respect surpassed anything he had seen.” (*Report of the Deputation 1826*)

The value of Mr Stagg’s services cannot be better exposed than in the works of once (the late Thomas How Masterman Esq.) who was fully acquainted with, and knew how to appreciate them, and whose loss the Company not to deplore, not only as a friend and associate at the Board, but for the unremitting attention he had given to, and which made him conversant with every branch of the Establishment, thereby enabling him to see at once and give full effect to those arrangements of the Superintendent which have been attended with such happy results &c.

“For although inferior powers, united with equal rectitude of Principle, might under due inspection from the Court conduct the Concern in the system now established, deeply would the Company have to regret any deficiency of that zeal by which he is animated, not only for their Interests – but for the welfare of the hundreds of human Beings under his influences.” (*Report of the Deputation 1818*)

## **London 1827**

### **CONTINUED AS RELATE TO THE SCHOOLS.<sup>18</sup>**

Among the most useful of the suggestions which Mr. Stagg offered for the amelioration of the condition and well being of the numerous body of workmen under his care – not have been more eminently successful than the institution of the Fund for Sickness & old age, and especially the establishment of Schools.

Having thus to deal with a turbulent race of Men; unused to restraint of any kind, though sensitively alive to a national love of justice (which might be worked upon by kindness and a strict adherence to impartiality in all transactions with them) yet he felt there was wanting the real foundation stone, for true discipline.

With the old, little could be effected; and he therefore, directed his energies to the rising generation, and strongly urged upon the Court the expediency, as well as the wisdom of establishing Schools in which,

*Letter 14 Feb 1818*

“*the Religious Books to be used, I would limit to the Bible, and such other works as are read alike by the denomination of Christian, and are acknowledged to contain the fundamentals of Religion free from party views and opinion.*” To the Bible however he trusted for infusing the right moral habits to be earned, and without a thorough knowledge of “the Book” (ascertained by a competent

examiner on the boy quitting the school) the youth could not obtain employment in the Company's Works. Note.

His expectations of the advantages to be derived will appear best in his own words, upon occasion of writing to the Court on the opening of the first School (at Middleton) 31<sup>st</sup> May 1819 – *"I cannot quit this subject without again repeating my thanks for the readings with which my recommendation to establish Schools was met by the Court; and for the high gratification of an institution which will insure to the whole of the population a respectable education, and will I trust lay the foundation for a radical and general improvement in the moral and religious habits of the rising generation, and which can hardly fail eventually to prove beneficial to the Company, by training up more active and intelligent practical Agents, and by giving more orderly and earnest habits to the workmen at large."*

Upwards of a quarter of century has now tested the soundings of the Principles adopted and the great value of these establishments – "to the influence of which may mainly be attributed the total absence of rebellious and insubordination of every kind, and that Chartism – radicalism – and many other abominations have for so very many years been strangers in the Concern" and there does not exist in the present day in the whole kingdom a more orderly, industrious & contented body of workmen.

*Note. The Rules of the School require, that the Masters and Mistress shall always be members of the Church England – and every child is required to attend public worship, twice each Sunday – the place of worship being left to the option of the Parent.*

During this period many have been the gratifying acknowledgements received by Mr Stagg upon the Subject – Upon one occasion "a Revival" when a deep and rather general interest in Religion had been excited in the Country – the old Methodists waited upon him, and stated they had not fully appreciated the full value of the Schools, until they were joined by several of the younger people when these young Christians, had by their superior Bible information, put the older members of the Society to shame.

No instances however occurred of greater interest and gratification than that of a youth names Lee – *"On commencing the School at Middleton, I examined all the young men in the Company's service there, and required all under 25 years old, who could not read, and they were very numerous, to attend the Sunday School. Lee was one of the number, and being a spirited youth of 18 or 19 years, and full grown, he felt ashamed as he afterwards told me, to have to be taught his Letters in the School. He absented himself the first Sunday and I had him warned, that he must conform or quit the Company's Service. Next Sunday however he ventured again to keep away, and his work as the consequence was stopped for that week. On the third Sunday he was in the School, but looking very sulky and dogged, however as there was no alternative, he by degrees turned in earnest to his books, and being active and quick, soon acquired the requisite power of reading and seemed to take an interest in it, and eventually, he passed creditably the usual free and strict Bible examination – received a copy of the Scriptures and quitted the School; and except as a Miner,*

*I lost sight of him, never having had any complains of his conduct as a Workman."*

*"After a few years he called at my office, requesting to speak to me. He then in a very modest becoming manner and with tears in his eyes, said he had felt it to be his duty to thank me, and to express how grateful he felt to me for having forced him to attend the School, and learn to read his Bible, which had proved the greatest blessing to him, for it had been the means of his conversion. He added with the greatest feeling he felt this acknowledgement to be peculiarly due from him, because he had so hated me for compelling him to attend school, that he could and he feared would have murdered me, had a suitable opportunity offered whilst under that feeling – but the best had yet to be told, for Lee proved by the uniform consistency of his after conduct in every respect that he had become a Christian indeed; in whom there was no deception, nor groundless imagination regarding his professed change."*

**London, January 1847**

## THE FAMILY OF ROBERT STAGG AND ANN RODDAM

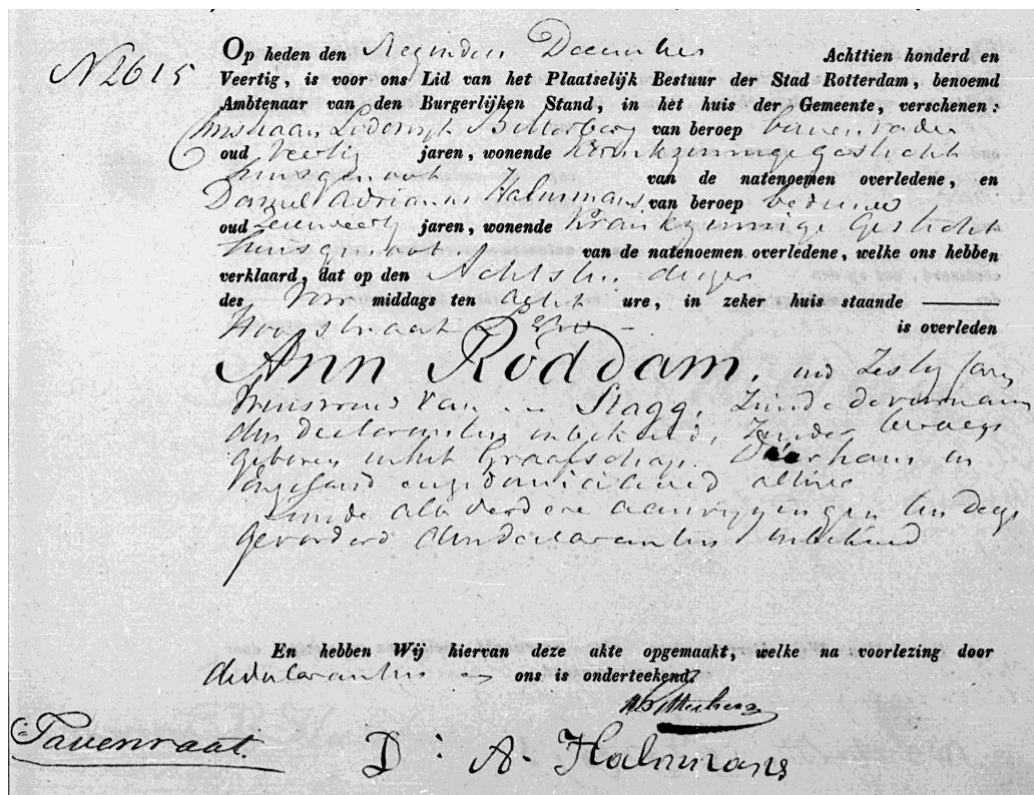
Robert Stagg married Ann Roddam on 11th March 1807 at Gateshead.  
Ann Stagg (Nee Roddam) died 8<sup>th</sup> December 1840, at Rotterdam.

Newcastle Journal Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> December 1840.

### Deaths

At Rotterdam, on the 8<sup>th</sup> inst. Anne, wife of Mr. Stagg, Middleton House, Teesdale, and youngest daughter of the late Mr. John Roddam, merchant, Gateshead.

The Dutch record of death is given below:<sup>19</sup>



### Translation

Today on the 9th of December 1840 have appeared before me, member of the City council of Rotterdam and Clerk at the office of Civil Registration, Christiaan Lodewijk Bilterberg, resident director, aged 40 years, living at the mental hospital, and Daniel Adrianus Halmmans, servant, aged 46 years, living at the aforementioned hospital, housemate of the deceased, which have declared that on the 8th instant, at 8 a.m., at the address Hoogstraat L 340 has died Ann Roddam, aged 60 years, born in the county of Durham, England, wife of ... Stagg, the informants do not know his Christian name nor other relevant details.

...

And we have herby drawn up this deed, which after reading by \_\_\_\_\_ is signed by us.

The archives at Rotterdam do not have a record of the date of Ann's admission, nor have I found a reason for this particular hospital being chosen.

Robert Stagg remarried, at Topcliffe Parish Church, to Ann White, on the 7<sup>th</sup> September 1841.

1841. Marriage solemnized at <i>the Parish Church</i> in the <i>Parish of Topcliffe</i> in the County of <i>York</i>								
No.	When Married.	Name and Surname.	Age.	Condition.	Rank or Profession.	Residence at the Time of Marriage.	Father's Name and Surname.	Rank or Profession of Father.
80	<i>September 7<sup>th</sup></i>	<i>Robert Stagg</i>	<i>49</i>	<i>Widower</i>	<i>Esquire</i>	<i>Middleton House</i>	<i>Robert Stagg</i>	<i>Deceased</i>
		<i>Ann White</i>	<i>49</i>	<i>Spinster</i>		<i>Driflforth</i>	<i>Thomas White</i>	<i>Deceased</i>
Married in the <i>Parish Church</i> according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Established Church, <i>by Licence</i> by me <i>Thomas Pacey</i>								
This Marriage was solemnized between us,		<i>Robert Stagg</i>			in the Presence of us,		<i>Ann White</i>	
		<i>Ann White</i>					<i>L. D. Stagg Ann. G. Stagg</i>	



**St Columba Topcliffe**



**Memorial Stone At St Columba, Topcliffe**

IN MEMORY OF  
ROBERT STAGG  
FORMERLY OF MIDDLETON IN TEESDALE  
WHO DIED AT DISHFORTH  
DEEPLY REGRETTE  
MARCH 27TH 1864  
AGED 82 YEARS

Now is Christ risen from the  
dead and become the first fruits  
of them that slept. 1st Cor. XVc XXv

AND ANN, HIS BELOVED WIFE  
WHO ALSO DIED AT DISHFORTH  
SEPTEMBER 16TH 1879  
AGED 86 YEARS

## CHILDREN OF ROBERT STAGG AND ANN RODDAM

**Ann Gascoigne Stagg** born 1808 and baptised 4th April 1809 at Gateshead, the 1851 census showed she was unmarried and living with her sister Jane at Middleton House. Ann aged 63, married William Tetley at Asenby Lodge aged 70 a land and house owner, born at Bradford, on 19<sup>th</sup> December 1868. William Tetley died 26<sup>th</sup> November 1874, and was buried at Topcliffe. Ann died 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter 1893 at Barton upon Irwell, Lanc's aged 85.

**Jane Stagg** born 12th June 1810, she married Robert Walton Bainbridge on the 4th July 1837 at Alston, she died 19th November 1880.

In 1841, at Middleton, R. W. Bainbridge, solicitor, aged 35, his wife Jane, aged 30, son Robert aged 2, and Ann Gascoigne Stagg aged 30.

In 1851, at Middleton House, Robert W Bainbridge, superintendent of the London Co. mines, aged 45, his wife Jane 40, children Robert S 12, Henry G. 9, Emily Ann 6, (married Thomas Pattison in 1868), William John 4, and Charles Ed 1.

In 1861, at Middleton House, Robert Walton Bainbridge, superintendent of the lead co. works in the North, aged 55, his wife Jane 49, children Henry George, clerk and assistant to superintendent, aged 19, Charles Edward 11, Lucy Elizabeth 9, and Laura Matilde Jane 6.

Henry George Bainbridge died 8<sup>th</sup> August 1870, aged 29.

Henry George Bainbridge married Margaret Borrow, 4<sup>th</sup> quarter 1866, at Richmond, Yorkshire

In 1871, at Masterman Place, Middleton, Margaret Bainbridge, widow, Independent, aged 26, children, Nellie Maud 3, Frank Gascoigne 2, and sister, Hannah Borrow 24.

In 1881, at Dishforth, Yorkshire, Thomas Borrow, retired farmer, aged 75, his wife Eliza J aged 62, son Charles Borrow, farmer of 146 acres, aged 25, and visitor, Frank G. Bainbridge aged 12.



In  
memory of  
Henry George Bainbridge  
born 16<sup>th</sup> July 1841  
died 8<sup>th</sup> Aug 1870.

Who soever believeth on the  
lord Jesus Christ shall be saved

Also Frank  
son of the above  
who died in Central Africa  
8<sup>th</sup> Feb<sup>y</sup> 1894 aged 26 yrs.

In 1871, at Hude Street, Robert W Bainbridge, superintendent of the London Co. works and mines, aged 65, his wife Jane 58, children Charles E. superintendent of the lead smelting works, aged 21, Lucy E 19, Laura M 16. In 1881, at Middleton House, Robert W. Bainbridge, widow, Superintendent London Lead Company Mines and Works, aged 75, daughter Lucy Elizabeth 29, daughter Laura Matilda J. 26, cousin Edith Bainbridge 33, born Wallsend, and visitor Mary Edith Beckworth aged 4, born Byker.

Robert Walton Bainbridge had moved to the County of Exeter following his retirement from the company (2 Stoke Villas, St James), he died at Middleton in Teesdale on 7th September 1888.

Laura Matilda Jane Bainbridge, married Rev Walter Metcalfe Holmes Milner. Living at West Ashton vicarage near Trowbridge in Wiltshire in 1889.

### **Robert Stagg Bainbridge**

In 1861, at West Matfen, Northumberland, Thomas Sample, land agent, aged 34, his wife Eliza Ward 22, daughter Isabella 1, and boarder Robert S Bainbridge, pupil, aged 22.

Robert Stagg Bainbridge married Mary Dodds at Muirhouselaw, St Boswells, 26<sup>th</sup> July 1864.

In 1871, at Woodhorn Grange, Robert Stagg Bainbridge, farmer of 400 acres, aged 31, his wife Mary 30, children Robert A 5, William D 3, and Harriet J 1. In 1881, at Keverston Hall, Raby, Durham, Robert S. Bainbridge, farmer of 200, acres, aged 41, his wife Mary 41, children Robert A. 15, William D. 13, Harriet J. 11, Kate A. 4, and Emily A. 2. Mary Middleton Bainbridge, aged 9 was staying with Uncle William Dodds, and Grandmother Harriet Dodds, at Ratcheugh Farm House, Longhaughton, near Alnwick in 1881, (she married Henry Seymour Guinness, 20<sup>th</sup> November 1900, at West Norwood).

In 1901, at Keverstone Farm, Robert Stagg Bainbridge, land agent & farmer, aged 61, his wife Mary 61, children William Dodds, contractor for cartage, aged 33, Catherine Alice 24, and Emily Ann 22.

Robert Stagg Bainbridge died 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 1903, aged 63.

**Robert Stagg** born 7<sup>th</sup> November 1811, in 1832 the Court received a letter informing them that Robert had died in India.<sup>20</sup>

Robert applied to join East India Company in 1830, (see his application Petition) records suggest that he attended the East India College at Haileybury House, Hertford, in 1830. On 17<sup>th</sup> February 1832 was appointed assistant to the Principal Collector in the Concan.<sup>21</sup> He died 6<sup>th</sup> March 1832, at Bombay, his estate was managed by the Supreme Court of Judicature at Bombay. The London Gazette of 5<sup>th</sup> November 1833 gives information regarding his Estate.

### **Report of the Supreme Court of Judicature at Bombay:**

A true and perfect Schedule of all Sums of Money, Bonds, and other Securities, belonging to the undermentioned Estates, being all the Estates committed to the charge of the Registrar on the Ecclesiastical side of this Court, under the Acts of the 39th and 40th and of the 55th George the Third, previous to the 22d day of October 1832, of which any part now remains in his hands, or in the hands of the Accountant-General of this Court; shewing the Gross Amount received, the Payments made thereout, and the Balance that appears to the Credit of each respective Estate; also of all Administrations whereof the

Balances have been paid over to the Persons entitled to the same, since 1st day of April last.

DECEASEDS" NAMES	Amount received including Interest to the 30 <sup>th</sup> April 1832	Amount Paid	Amount in the hands of the Accountant General, exclusive of Current Interest from 1 <sup>st</sup> May 1832	Amount in the hands of the Registrar
	Rs. qr. rs.	Rs. qr. rs.	Rs. qr. rs.	Rs. qr. rs.
Robert Stagg, Esq. Civil Service	692 0 0	399 2 38	—	292 1 62

**John Roddam Stagg**, baptised at Stanhope 18th April 1814, married Clarrissa Ross 24th September 1832, at Willesden Middlesex. John Roddam Stagg and his wife Clarrissa emigrated to North America, arriving at New York on the ship Woodbury on the 18th April 1833. They had four children, William Augustus, Clara, Louise, and Caroline, they are mentioned in the will of Robert Stagg dated 22nd January 1856, John Roddam Stagg had died before this date.

#### **1840 City Directory for Brooklyn, New York - S**

John R Stagg, cabinet maker, at 60 Hicks.

#### **The 1850 Federal census gives the following:**

##### **William Stagg**

<b>Age:</b>	<b>17</b>
Estimated Birth Year:	abt 1833
Birth Place:	New York
Gender:	Male
Home in 1850	Brooklyn Ward 4, Kings, New York
Name	Age
Clara Stagg	40 born England
value of real estate owned	\$1200
William Stagg	17 Clerk Born New York
Clarra Stagg	14 Born New York
Louisa Stagg	11 Born New York
Caroline Stagg	8 Born New York

**The New York State census of 1855**, gives at Brooklyn City, Ward 11, Kings, New York,  
Clara Stagg 44, children William 21, Clara 19, Louisa 17, and Caroline 13.

**The New York State census of 1865** gives at Brooklyn City, Ward 11, Kings, New York,  
Mrs Clarence Stagg aged 54, children William, clerk, aged 31, and Caroline aged 23.

**The 1870 Federal census gives the following:**

**Clara Stagg**

Event Place:	New York, United States
Gender:	Female
Age:	62
Race:	White
Race (Original):	W
Birth Year (Estimated):	1807-1808
Birthplace:	England
Occupation:	Keeping House
Household	
William A Stagg clerk in store	36 born New York
Carrie Stagg	28 born New York

**The 1880 Federal census gives the following:**

**Clara Stagg**

Home in 1880:	Brooklyn, Kings, New York
Age:	74
Estimated Birth Year:	abt 1806
Birthplace:	England
Relation to Head of Household:	Mother
Father's birthplace:	England
Mother's birthplace:	England
Occupation:	Keeping House
Marital Status:	Widowed
Race:	White
Gender:	Female
Household Members:	
Name	Age
William A. Stagg	46 born New York
Carolina Stagg	37 born New York

State of New York,  
City and County of New York, ) S.  
John Roddam Stagg residing  
in Lawrence Street, between Johnson Street and  
Myrtle Avenue in the City of Brooklyn, Kings  
County, Cabinet Maker, being duly sworn  
deposes and swears that he is a resident of and  
intends always to reside in the United States and  
to become a Citizen thereof as soon as he can be  
naturalized and that he has taken such  
incipient measures as the laws of the United  
States require to enable him to obtain naturaliza-  
-tion by declaring his intentions for that purpose  
this day before the Marine Court of the City of  
New York. And further he swears that  
Given this 15th day of  
November 1843 Before me ) John R. Stagg  
D. M. Boardman )  
Commissioner of Records.

Declaration of John Roddam Stagg, dated 16th November 1843.  
New York, Allen Depositions of Intent to Become U.S. Citizens, 1825-1871

The New York Herald recorded: Louise Stagg married John R. Pettis, 22nd June 1860. The 1865 New York census gives at Brooklyn, Kings, John R Pettis, clerk, aged 26, his wife Louisa 26, and daughter Looisa 2. In 1875 the New York Census gives, John R Pettis, Tobacco salesman, aged 36, his wife Louisa 36, daughters, Lavinia 12, and Clara L 4. John R Pettis, died 16th April 1878, buried at Greenwood Cemetery, Brooklyn. The 1880 federal census gives at Brooklyn, Kings, Louisa Pettis, widow, aged 40, and daughters, Lavinia 17, and Clara 9. Probable death of Louisa Pettis, January 1902, buried 30th January 1902, at Greenwood Cemetery, Brooklyn.

Clara Stagg died 29th January 1891, aged 83, years, at Kings, New York, USA. Caroline Stagg died 20th March 1904, aged 62 years, at Kings, New York, USA. William A Stagg died 5th March 1919, aged 85 years, at Kings, New York, USA.

**Joseph Dickinson Stagg** born 1815, baptised at Stanhope 18<sup>th</sup> April 1815, he married Elizabeth Bainbridge (daughter of Robert Bainbridge and Elizabeth (Walton)) on 6<sup>th</sup> September 1836, at Alston. He died in Scotland in as a result of inflammation of the lungs in 1851<sup>22</sup>.

Elizabeth Stagg his wife died 20<sup>th</sup> March 1847, death registered at Newcastle. Children of Joseph & Elizabeth Stagg:

1. Elizabeth Ann baptised 4<sup>th</sup> March 1838, at Middleton, died 23<sup>rd</sup> February 1888, at Sedgefield, Durham.
2. Robert Bainbridge baptised 15<sup>th</sup> September 1839, at Middleton died 22<sup>nd</sup> April 1847, (reg Newcastle).
3. Joseph baptised 10<sup>th</sup> October 1841, at Middleton; died 16<sup>th</sup> April 1847
4. Louisa Jane baptised 3<sup>rd</sup> December 1843, at Middleton.
5. John George born 1<sup>st</sup> quarter 1847, died 12<sup>th</sup> February 1848, at Middleton.

Joseph Dickinson Stagg remarried to Jane Griffith (born about 1819, Holywell, died 3<sup>rd</sup> qtr. 1895, Holywell) at Holywell, Flintshire 4<sup>th</sup> qtr. 1848. They had sons, Robert Griffith Stagg born 3<sup>rd</sup> qtr. 1849, died same qtr., and Robert Walter Stagg born 1851, at Glasgow, died 1<sup>st</sup> qtr., 1902 at Holywell, Flintshire, the 1901 census shows at Brynford Cottage, Robert Walter Stagg, single, retired seedsman, aged 50, born Kelso, Scotland. Jane Stagg died 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter 1895, aged 76, at Holywell.

1. Elizabeth Ann Stagg was admitted to Tue Brook Villa, Private Lunatic Asylum, Liverpool, Lancashire, 8<sup>th</sup> January 1859, she was transferred probably to Durham County Lunatic Asylum 4<sup>th</sup> January 1869, where she died 23<sup>rd</sup> February 1888, aged 50. She had been provided for in the Will of Robert Stagg her grandfather.

### **Probate 21 March 1891.**

Administration of the Personal Estate of Elizabeth Ann Stagg late of Durham County Lunatic Asylum at Sedgefield in the County of Durham Spinster who died 23 February 1888 at the said Asylum was granted at the Principal Registry to Robert Walter Stagg of Brynford Cottage Holywell in the County of Flint Gentleman the Brother by the Half-blood and one of the Next of Kin. Personal Estate £2,182

4. Louisa Jane married John George Millican on 21st July 1868, a Solicitor in Alston, they had three children Robert, Lillian and Alice. In 1871, at The Grove, Alston John G Millican, attorney & solicitor, aged 29, his wife Louisa J 27, and son Ernest 1.

Joseph Dickinson Stagg worked for the Lead Company, initially helping his father at Egglestone Mill, and in 1836 he was being paid £300 per annum to assist his father in any of the departments, in which his father needed help.<sup>23</sup> On hearing that Joseph was to be married the Court presented him with £100, "for such articles as he may approve for the furnishing of his house." He carried out many improvements his best known being his design of a Flume Condenser. In 1844, he left the company's service and the minutes of 5th September 1844 record:

"The Superintendent be allowed to present Mr. J D Stagg (after he has left his situation under the Company) with a gratuity of Two hundred pounds in consideration of his past services; also, to acquaint him that the Court cancel their claim upon him for reimbursement of his expenses that have been incurred in taking out his patents for his Flume Condenser.

"The Superintendent be instructed to proceed immediately with the maturing plans and estimates for the construction of a water dam in Priorsdale and for the erection of a Flume Condenser at Nenthead and to submit the same to the Court."

The fumes were forced through water using powerful pumps powered by a water wheel, the wheel pit can be seen today.

The Stagg family connection continued via Robert Walton Bainbridge and his sons, Robert, Henry George, and Charles Edward. Robert Walton Bainbridge having taken over as Superintendent after Robert Stagg retired, worked for the company until 1884. The Court appreciated his work and he frequently received gifts from them. The minutes of 26th February 1884 show this high regard:

"Resolved that the members of this Court previously to separating desire unanimously to put upon record their sense of faithful service of their Superintendent R W Bainbridge Esq. during the long period through which he has been in the employment of the Company, and of their warm and sincere personal regard for him.

"Ordered that the secretary be instructed to send a copy of the above resolution to Mr Bainbridge."

The minutes of 10th April 1884 record his retirement and the appointment of his son Charles in his place.

"The Deputation recommend the Court pension Mr. Bainbridge senior and to appoint Mr. C Bainbridge Superintendent and General Manager at a salary not exceeding £500 per annum with a house rent free with powers and duties to be hereafter defined.

"Resolved that a payment be made to Mr. Bainbridge of £2000 equivalent of a life annuity of £410. And that he leave the residence and give up vacant possession at Midsummer. Also, that his present salary be paid up to that date.

"Resolved that Mr. Charles Bainbridge be appointed General Manager with powers and duties to be hereafter prescribed at a salary of £500 and that he be granted a fortnights leave of absence. Also, that he be desired to come up to attend the Court on Tuesday the 29th instant."

Robert Walton Bainbridge's son Robert worked for the company<sup>24</sup> only for a very short time preferring to become a farmer. Henry George showed greater promise and was appointed Manager of Mills, Washing Rakes and Counting Houses. In 1868 his father was given the permission of the Court to send his son "Mr. Henry G Bainbridge to visit from time to time the principle establishments in the trade, as he may deem desirable." He remained working for the company until his death in 1870.

The minutes of 29th November 1870 show:

"Mr. Charles Edward Bainbridge is appointed as Manager of Mills, Washing Rakes and Counting houses his salary to be increased £50 a year from the date of his appointment making it £150 to fill the place of his brother deceased."

Charles progressed rapidly, his salary was increased in 1875 from £250 to £300, and in 1882 further increased to £500. The 1881 census shows that Charles at that time was living at Masterman place, Middleton, and was a manager at the lead works. He had married Eleanor Wood in 1873, they had five children, Henry, Mable, Annie, Robert and Emely.

He continued to work for the company until 1891 after taking over as superintendent from his father, he resigned his post, this resignation taking effect on the 2nd February 1891.

John Joseph Millican the former mine superintendent of the Alston Moor District was appointed in his place at a salary of £200 a year.

**Documents Relating to the Application by Robert Stagg junior  
to Join the United East India Company  
British Library Reference: IOR/J/1/48/341-51, dated 1830**

**Stagg**

*To the Honourable Court of Directors of the United East India Company*

*The Humble Petition of Robert Stagg*

*Sheweth*

*That your Petitioner has received a Classical & Commercial Education  
and is desirous to devote himself to the Civil Service of the Honourable  
Company in India.*

*He therefore humbly prays that should the Testimonials and  
Certificated which accompany this Petition be deemed satisfactory  
to your Honourable Court, he may be nominated for examination  
before the London Board of Examiners with a view to his future  
appointment as a Writer on the Bombay Establishment.*

*And your Petitioner will ever pray I do hereby acknowledge to  
have read a Printed Paper entitled Preparatory Instructions and Regulations  
for Admission to the Civil Service of the United East India Company of  
Persons who have not resided at the East India College.*

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Robert Stagg Junr." with a flourish at the end.

**Testimonial of Charles Smith Senior Tutor at the Darlington  
Academy**

Mr Robert Stagg has attended, for nearly four years the Darlington Academy—  
an institution chiefly, though not exclusively supported by the Society of  
Friends.

During his whole residence here, his conduct was exemplary, his manners  
correct and amiable, and his moral character such as met with the uniform  
approbation of everyone connected with the establishment.

First: he entered the Academy in January 1825 and continued regularly until  
June 1828. Having previously received elementary instruction, he entered  
upon a course of studies in the Classical and French languages, in  
Mathematics, and other branches of school learning. In all departments, his  
diligence and success afforded entire satisfaction to his teachers, and  
procured for him on two successive years, one of the few honorary rewards,  
given to encourage merit.

Secondly: he returned to the Academy on November 13, 1829 and remained until the end of March 1830; during which time he was one of my immediate pupils. He was engaged in the perusal of some of the more difficult Greek and Latin authors, and went through a short course of Mathematics.

Having had ample opportunities of knowing him, both in his former and more recent residence, I have much pleasure in bearing testimony to his personal worth, and to the assiduity and talent which he has always displayed. Upon my honour I believe, that the above statement is in no way coloured or exaggerated.

John Smith — Senior Tutor  
In the Darlington Academy

Darlington May 26<sup>th</sup>, 1830.

### **Letter from Robert Stagg senior to Charles Mills**

*Middleton House  
Barnard Castle  
23<sup>rd</sup> August 1830*

*Sir.*

*I beg to inform you, on my honour, that my son, Robert Stagg, to whom you have been so good as to give a nomination to a writership, has not been dismissed the Army or Navy, & that he never was expelled from any place of public education.*

*I have the honour to be, most  
respectfully, Sir  
Your much obliged  
& very obedient servant*

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Robert Stagg". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the closing text of the letter.

## Testimonial of Charles Mills

*I Charles Mills Esq being one of the Directors of the East India Company, do declare, that I have fully enquired into the Character, the Connections, and Qualifications of the within Petitioner Robert Stagg; and that after seeing and Examining the said Petitioner, he is in my opinion, a fit person to petition the East India Company for the appointment which he herein solicits. I therefore recommend this Petition; and I do most solemnly declare, upon my Honour, that I have given this Nomination to the said Petitioner, as a voluntary gift and that I neither have received myself, nor aim to receive, nor has any person to the best of my Knowledge or Belief, received, nor is to receive any pecuniary consideration, nor any thing convertible, in any mode, into a pecuniary Benefit on this account.*

*As Witness my Hand*

*Charles Mills*

*September 3 1830*


*Charles Mills was a member of the Court of Assistants of the Governor and Company for Smelting Down Lead with Pit Coal and Sea Coal*

## Stagg Family Wills

### The Will of Robert Stagg of Howgill Sike 16<sup>th</sup> December 1758

In the name of God Amen.

I Robert Stagg of Howgill Sike in the Parish of Alston County of Cumberland and Diocese of Durham yeoman being indifferent in health but of perfect and disposing mind and memory thanks be to almighty God for the same. Do make this my last will and testament in manner and form following. First I give to my daughter Elizabeth Bell now a widow the sum of three pounds to be paid yearly and every year during the time of her natural life the first payment to be made twelve months after my decease and to continue and be paid by my executor here after named during her natural life as afore said and also give to my son Joshua Stagg my leasehold estate at Howgill Sike with all properties and privileges thereunto belonging to hold to him and his heirs for and during the residue and remainder of the lease of one thousand years granted for the same and I also give to my son Joshua Stagg all my goods chattels household goods and husbandry gear and all other effects to me in any wise appertaining or belonging of what kind or nature so ever they be here so ever they be found whither moveable or immovable and I make my said son Joshua Stagg full and sole executor of this my last will and testament revoking disannulling and making void all forms of wills by me at any time made heretofore either in words or writing Repaying all my just debts the above mentioned legacy and several expenses in witness where of I here seen unto set my hand and seal this day 16<sup>th</sup> day of December 1758.

*Robert Stagg his mark* 

Witnesses

Thomas Vipond

John Rowe

Sarah Row

Probate at Durham 1762

## Will of Joseph Stagg of Jollybeard House 1808

In the name of God Amen. I Joseph Stagg of Jollybeard House in the Parish of Alston, County of Cumberland, being of sound and disposing mind and memory (praised be god) do make and constitute this my last will and testament in manner and form following.

Viz, Imprimis. I give and bequeath unto my son Joseph Dickinson Stagg, and (should my wife Ruth Stagg have another child or children to me) unto each and every of my other children an equal share of my estate or Tenement called Jollybeard House (now occupied by myself and my tenants) as tenants in common and not as joint tenants save and except one hundred pounds or the value thereof which I give out of the said estate unto my son Joseph Dickinson Stagg more than the rest, each child to be entitled to his or her share of the said estate when the youngest child which may be living shall attain the age of twenty one years and should any die without lawful issue before such youngest child attains that age the survivor or survivors shall have his, her or their share equally among them, but should I have no child that attains the age of twenty one years, nor the lawful issue of no child then on the death or marrying again of my wife Ruth Stagg I give and bequeath unto my brothers and sisters or their lawful issue my aforesaid estate to be equally divided among them as tenants in common and not joint tenants.

I give and bequeath unto my dearly beloved wife Ruth Stagg my share of the candle house and candle business at Alston Town Head, and nominate and appoint her my executrix and authorise and appoint her to receive and pay all debts due to and from me also the rents arising from my aforesaid estate until my youngest child as aforesaid attains the age of twenty one years if she remain my widow until that time and on condition that she pay all my just debts and that my aforesaid estate be kept free from any mortgage or encumbrance whatever and from the time of my youngest Childs coming of age I charge and subject my aforesaid estate of Jollybeard House to an annuity of fifty pounds to be aid unto my wife Ruth Stagg during her natural life or so long as she remains my widow; but in case she marry again or die before my child or children become possessed of the aforesaid estate I then constitute and appoint my brother Robert Stagg, my wife's brother Joseph Dickinson, and John Dickinson of Lowbyer Trustees for my child or children then living and direct and authorise them at the time of the death or marrying again of my said wife to take possession of my estate and receive all rents arising therefrom and manage it in trust for my child or children to the best advantage until he she or they become entitled to it by this my will, in witness whereof I have herewith set my hand and seal this 16<sup>th</sup> January in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and eight.



Witnesses:

Robert Bainbridge  
William Bainbridge

Proved at Durham by the oath of Ruth Stagg on 11<sup>th</sup> December 1809  
Value under £150.

## Robert Stagg 1808

In the name of God Amen.

Robert Stagg of the town and parish of Alston in the county of Cumberland and Diocese of Durham being at this time of sound and disposing mind and memory and a good understanding praised be almighty God for the same do make this my last will and testament in manner and form following (that is to say) first and principally I surrender my soul to almighty God and my body to be decently buried at the direction of my executors herein after named and as to such worldly goods as God in his great goodness bestowed upon me I dispose of them in the manner and form following (that is to say) I give and bequeath unto my son John Stagg six hundred pounds and to my three daughters Jane Stagg, Mary Stagg and Ruth Stagg the sum of three hundred pounds each and to my two grandsons William Richardson and Robert Richardson fifty pounds each all the above legacies to become due and payable twelve months after my decease if the parties to whom they are bequeathed have then attained the age of twenty one years but in case any of them have not attained that age I order that my executors hereafter named may either pay legal interest to them or their guardians for their support and maintenance while under age or also to secure it for them until they become of age as they judge will be most for their benefit and then pay it to them both along with their legacy. I also give to my three daughters Jane, Mary & Ruth all my plate china goods and furniture and linen to be divided equally among them share and share alike and if any of them should happen to die before such dividing take place then the survivors shall be entitled to the whole of the aforesaid goods and furniture. But because my son John Stagg is dumb and otherwise incapable of acting for himself I appoint my sons Joseph and Robert Stagg and also my daughters Jane, Mary and Ruth Stagg to be joint and equal guardians of my said son John and do empower them to secure and place his legacy either in the Government funds or else by some other good security where the interest will be duly paid every half year and do hereby authorise his guardians for the time being to receive the interest as often as it shall be due and apply it as they shall see most useful for his support and maintenance and in case any of my aforesaid sons and daughters die before my said son John then the whole trust and guardianship shall rest in the survivors and in case they should all die before him then the last survivor shall have power and authority other guardian or guardians to take care of him during his life and after the death of my said son John I order the aforesaid legacy of six hundred pounds to be equally divided among all my other children or their lawful issue share and share alike the issue of such as now or may be dead to take the share of said legacy that would have been due to their parents if they had been living and I further order that if any of my other children die before their legacies become due having no lawful issue then their legacy shall be equally divided amongst the surviving brothers and sisters and the lawful issue of such as may be dead the same as ordered in the distribution of my son John's legacy aforesaid my grandsons William and Robert Richardson always being understood to be entitled to the share that would have been due to their mother if she had been living and that the same and the interest thereof to be payable to them at the discretion of my executors in the same manner and form as the aforesaid two legacies and the interest thereof herein before bequeathed to them and I further order that if either of my said grandsons die before their legacies become due then the survivor shall be entitled to both their

legacies if he live to attain the age of twenty one years but if they both die before they get to that age then their legacies shall be equally divided amongst all my other children or their lawful issue in the same manner as divided in the distribution of my son Johns legacy after his death and I further order that all the aforesaid legacies shall bear lawful interest from the time of my decease until the time that they are ordered to be paid such interest to be paid quarterly if demanded and I give devise and bequeath to my said sons Joseph Stagg and Robert Stagg and the survivor of them and their issue and assigns of such survivor all such real estates as are vested in me by way of mortgage or trust in order to enable them to surrender the same on payment of the mortgage money and interest thereby respectively survived and lastly I do hereby nominate constitute and appoint my two sons Joseph Stagg and Robert Stagg to be residuary devisors and legates and executors of this my last will and testament and do empower them to take and secure all debts and monies due to me and do order them to pay all my just debts the aforesaid legacies and funeral expenses and also the expense of proving this my last will and testament and I do hereby revoke all other wills made by me at any time heretofore and do declare this to be my last will and testament witness thereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal this twentieth day of May in the year of our lord one thousand eight hundred and eight.

*Robert Stagg*



Witnesses:

Robert Teasdale

Timothy Teasdale

William Bainbridge

This will was proved at Durham on 2<sup>nd</sup> December 1808, by the oaths of Timothy Teasdale, Joseph Stagg & Robert Stagg. Estate value under three thousand five hundred pounds.

This will was proved at London on the Nineteenth day of September 1809 before the Right Honourable Sir John Nicholl, Knight, Doctor of Law Master Keeper or Commissioner of the Prerogative court of Canterbury lawfully constituted by the oaths of Joseph Stagg and Robert Stagg

Source: England & Wales, Prerogative Court of Canterbury Wills, 1384-1858, Ancestry.com

1842/52611  
 This is the last will & Testament of me Ann Stagg  
 I give & bequeath to my dear Husband the  
 whole of my Monied & Movable Money  
 to his sole use as witness my hand this  
 Tenth day of June 1841 —

Ann Stagg

Witnesses.

Ann Faulstich

Ann Faulstich

[Statutory died 3rd August 1841.]

On the 17<sup>th</sup> day of January 1842, Letters  
 of Administration with this Will annexed of  
 the Goods, Chattels and Credits of Ann Stagg  
 late of Stockton-upon-Tees, in the County and  
 Diocese of Durham, deceased, were duly  
 committed and granted to John Stagg of  
 Stockton-upon-Tees aforesaid, Merchant, the  
 lawful Husband and the Universal Legatee  
 named in the said Will, he having been first  
 duly sworn before The Reverend George Newby,  
 Clerk, Master of Arts, our Surrogate lawfully  
 appointed, faithfully to execute and perform  
 the same and administer as usual. (There  
 being no Executor named in the said Will)  
 Effects sworn under £1000.  
 R. Burrell p<sup>r</sup>

Joseph Dawson

Deputy Reg<sup>r</sup>

## **Will of John Stagg of Stockton upon Tees 1841**

This is the Last Will and Testament of me John Stagg of Stockton upon Tees in the County of Durham hereunder made this Eighth day of November in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and forty one. I appoint my nephews Joshua Byers, Joshua Currah Stagg and John Stagg Barnes executors of this my will and trustees for the purpose herein after mentioned.

I give and bequeath to Fanny Lumley, Louisa Lumley, Caroline Lumley and Emily Lumley Frederick Snowdon William Snowdon and Ann Louise Lumley the wife of John Frederick Lumley Ann Henzell the wife of John Harrop Henzell the said John Frederick Lumley and Maria Lumley Ellen Lumley and Louisa Robson the wife of Stewart Robson the twelve nephews and nieces of my late wife the sum of two thousand pounds to be divided amongst them in equal shares and I give devise appoint and bequeath all real estate and all personal estate of which as owner or in execution of any power or otherwise I shall at the time of my decease be competent or entitled to dispose of by this my will and not herein otherwise disposed of unto and to the use of my said nephews Joshua Byers Joshua Currah Stagg and John Stagg Barnes their heirs executors administrators and assigns according to the respective natures and terms thereof as to any real estate vested in me upon any term of trust or by way of mortgage upon trust to dispose thereof according to the equities affecting the same and as to all other real and personal estate herein after devise appoint and bequeath which is hereinafter referred to as the said just premises upon trust in the first place to pay my debts and funeral and testamentary expenses and all expenses which shall be incurred by my trustees in the execution of the trusts of this my will and also the legacies hereinbefore given and subject thereto as to one equal sixth part or share of and in the said trust in premises I direct that the same shall be held in trust for my nephew the said Joshua Byers his heirs executors administrators and assigns and as to one other sixth part or share of and in the same premises in trust for my nephew the said Joshua Currah Stagg his heirs executors administrators and assigns and as to the remaining four sixth parts or shares of and in the same premises I direct that the same shall be held upon the trusts following that is to say upon trust to pay unto or permit and suffer my sister Elizabeth Barnes to have and receive the rents interest and annual proceeds thereof during her life for her sole and separate use and free from marital control and from and after her decease I direct that the same four sixths parts or share shall be held in trust for her child if only one or all her children equally if more than one who shall survive me and for the heirs executors and administrators of said child and children respectively and I hereby expressly declare that in case any one or more of the legatees or devisees named in this my will except the said Elizabeth Barnes shall die in my life time leaving issue at my decease such issue shall have and take the share and estate intended by this my will for his her or their portion and in case either or both of them the said Joshua Byers and Joshua Currah Stagg shall die in my lifetime without leaving issue living at my decease the share or shares of him or them so dying shall be added to and equally divided between the other six parts of the said premises and shall go along there with provided always and I hereby expressly declare that my nephews Joshua Byers, Joshua Currah Stagg, and Joshua Barnes or the survivors or survivor of them at my decease shall have the option of purchasing my lead mill, Rail yard and the warehouses and quay near the Blue Anchor in Stockton aforesaid with the buildings parcels of ground

*eight members* and appurtenances which shall belong thereto or be used therewith at the time of my decease and also all fixtures stationary utensils and chattels which shall be then used in or about the same at or for the price or sum of five thousand pounds if they shall agree to carry on the business now carried on by me thereon but such option shall cease and determine unless the same shall be accepted in writing within three calendar months next after my decease and unless the said nephews Joshua Byers Joshua Currah Stagg and Joshua Barnes or the survivors or survivor of them shall within such three calendar months enter into binding contract with my said nephew John Stagg Barnes to complete the purchase of my said lead mill and premises within the term of twelve calendar months next after my decease provided always and I hereby empower my said trustees and the survivors and survivor of them to correspond for or allow time for the payment of or absolutely to abandon and release any debt or debts owe to my estate and to satisfy or settle all demands against my estate whether supported on legal evidence or not and to refer any matter of difficulty relating to my estate in such manner and on such terms as the trustees or trustee for the time being of this my will shall seem expedient provided also and I do hereby declare that it shall be lawful for the trustees or trustee of this my will at their discretion to continue all or any part of my estate in the state or investment in or upon which the same shall be at the time of my decease however doubtful or hazardous or otherwise to call in and compel payment or sell and dispose of the same and to lay out and invest the monies to be thereby produced and all other monies to be from time to time received by them under the exercise of the trusts or powers herein in shares and maintained in their or his names or name in some or one of the parliamentary stocks of Great Britain or at interest upon any real securities in England or Wales or upon the securities of any corporation aggregate or chartered company in England to be from time to time altered varied or transferred for or into other stocks shares or securities of the nature or kind aforesaid as the said trustees or trustee for the time being shall think proper which stocks funds and securities so to be purchased or acquired by the said trustees or trustee of this my will and the annual income thereof shall be held under subject to the same trusts as the trust premises for which the same shall be substituted were or would have been liable to under this my will and I hereby empower the trustees or trustee for the time being of this my will to give receipts for all in any of the trusts or powers aforesaid or which shall a use or become payable under the exercise of any of the trusts or powers aforesaid or which shall otherwise accrue due to my estate and I declare that such receipts shall exonerate the person taking the same from all liability to see to the application of the money therein mentioned and that no purchaser of the said trust premises or any part thereof nor any person gaining through or under any purchaser shall be bound to ascertain or enquire into the validity propriety or expediency of this my will In witness whereof at have at the foot or end of and the five preceding sheets of paper set my hand the day and year first within written.

*John Stagg*

Witnesses R Pulman & John Rolling

This is a Codicil to the last will and Testament of me John Stagg of Stockton upon Tees in the County of Durham Merchant and which bears the date the

eighth day of November in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and forty one. Whereas I have in and by my said will given and bequeathed to Fanny Lumley, Louisa Lumley Caroline Lumley and Emily Lumley Frederick Snowdon William Snowdon and Ann Louisa Lumley the wife of John Frederick Lumley Ann Henzell the wife of John Harrop Henzell the said John Frederick Lumley and Maria Lumley Ellen Lumley and Louisa Robson the wife of Stewart Robson the twelve nephews and nieces of my late wife the sum of two thousand pounds to be divided amongst them in equal shares now I do hereby give and bequeath unto them the said Fanny Lumley, Louisa Lumley Caroline Lumley and Emily Lumley William Snowdon and Ann Louisa Lumley the wife of John Frederick Lumley Ann Henzell the wife of John Harrop Henzell the said John Frederick Lumley and Maria Lumley Ellen Lumley and Louisa Robson the further sum of one thousand six hundred pounds being the amount bequeathed to me by the will of my late wife Ann Stagg in pursuance of the settlement made on her marriage with me (in addition to the said sum of two thousand pounds bequeathed to them and the said Frederick Snowdon by my said will) to be divided into twelve equal shares the said Ann Louisa Lumley to have two shares and the other ten legatees one share each thereof and with this addition or alteration I do hereby in all other respects confirm my said will in witness whereof I have to this codicil to my said will set my hand this thirtieth day of April one thousand eight hundred and forty two.

Witnesses R Pulman & John Rolling

This is a Codicil to the last will and testament of me John Stagg states this first day of January 1844 having by will and Codicil bequeathed to Louisa Lumley daughter of the Reverend Barth Lumley a legacy and having in my lifetime given her on her marriage one hundred pounds I order and direct my executors to deduct one hundred pounds from her proportion of what is bequeathed to her in my will.

Witness Ann Allinson & Jane Russell

Proved at London with two codicils the 13<sup>th</sup> August 1844 by the oaths of Joshua Byers and Joshua Currah Stagg

Source: England & Wales, Prerogative Court of Canterbury Wills, 1384-1858, Ancestry.com

### **Will of Robert Stagg of Dishforth 22<sup>nd</sup> January 1856 and two codicils**

This is the last will and testament of me Robert Stagg of Dishforth in the County of York Gentleman. I give and bequeath unto my dear wife Ann Stagg an annuity or yearly sum of two hundred pounds for and during the term of her natural life the same to be paid to her quarterly and in preference to any other bequest contained in this will and without diminution. I give and bequeath to my daughter Ann Gascoigne Stagg an annuity or yearly sum of fifty (50) pounds for and during the life of my dear wife the same to be paid to her my said daughter half yearly and upon the decease of my said wife and in case my said daughter shall then be living I give and bequeath to my said daughter the legacy or sum of one thousand pounds. I give and bequeath to Lucy Macdonald an annuity or yearly sum of thirty (30) pounds for and during the life of my said wife the same to be paid half yearly. And upon the decease of my said wife and in case the said Lucy Macdonald shall be then living, I give and bequeath to her the said Lucy Macdonald the legacy sum of seven hundred (700) pounds. I give and bequeath unto my grandchildren William Augustus, Sara Louisa and Caroline Stagg the son and daughters of the late John Roddam Stagg deceased the legacy or sum of eight hundred (800) pounds the same to be payable and divisible among them my said grandchildren or appropriated for their use in such ways and such purposes and at such times and places and in such proportions as my executors hereinafter named may deem most fitting and proper and best calculated to promote the welfare of my said grandchildren but without interest in the meantime. I give and bequeath unto my granddaughter Elizabeth Ann Stagg the daughter of my late son Joseph Dickinson Stagg deceased the legacy or sum of three hundred (300) pounds and unto my granddaughter Louisa Jane Stagg the other daughter of my said late son the legacy or sum of two hundred pounds the said respective legacies to be payable to them respectively upon the decease of my said wife but without interest in the meantime. And in case of the death of either of them my said last named grandchildren prior to the decease of my said dear wife then I do hereby direct that the legacy of her so dying shall go to and be paid to the survivor of them my said grandchildren. I give and bequeath to my sister Jane Elliott an annuity or yearly sum of thirty (£30) pounds for and during the lifetime of my said dear sister the same to be paid half yearly. And upon the decease of my said wife and in case my niece Mary Elliott shall then be living I give and bequeath to my said niece the legacy or sum of twenty (20) pounds as a mark of the high sense I entertain of her care and nursing of her, mother my said sister during her illness and old age. I give devise and bequeath unto my daughter Jane the wife of Robert Walton Bainbridge her heirs and assigns all my freehold dwelling houses outhouses gardens orchard and other hereditaments at Dishforth aforesaid subject nevertheless and without prejudice to the free and uncontrolled use and enjoyment thereof by my said dear wife for and during the term of her natural life and that without paying any rent or consideration for the same and she my said dear wife being at liberty to let the whole or any part thereof to a yearly tenant or tenants and receiving to her own use the rents thereof during her life. I give and bequeath unto my said dear wife all my household furniture and implements of household beds bedding plate china books and linen and all other my goods and chattels in and about my house and premises at Dishforth the same to be at her disposal by will or otherwise. But in the event of her making

no disposition thereof either in her lifetime or by her will then I do hereby direct that the same shall fall into and be considered part of my residuary estate as hereinafter by me given and bequeathed. I give devise and bequeath unto my said daughter Jane Bainbridge her heirs executors administrator and assigns all the rest residue and remainder of my real and personal estate and effects whatever and wheresoever there being first paid all my just debts and funeral and testamentary expenses. And I do hereby nominate constitute and appoint my said dear wife Ann Stagg and my son in law Robert Walton Bainbridge joint executors of this my will. And I hereby give and devise to them their heirs and assigns all estates rested in me by way of mortgage or trust and do hereby direct and declare that they shall have full power to call in and charge any of the securities wherein my property is invested and that their receipts shall be sufficient discharge in the execution of this my will. In witness whereof I have to this my last will and testament set my hand and seal this twenty second day of January in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and fifty six.

Witnesses

John Milthorp Surgeon, Topcliffe

W Tetley Asenby Lodge, Gentleman

Whereas I Robert Stagg have in and by my last will and testament given and bequeathed to my granddaughter Elizabeth Ann Stagg the legacy or sum of three hundred pounds And my son in-law and executor Robert Walton Bainbridge has already advanced and paid and may hereafter think proper to advance and pay monies on my said granddaughters account. Now I the said Robert Stagg do hereby direct and declare that it shall and may be lawful to and for the said Robert Walton Bainbridge and I hereby request him to retain and repay himself out of the said legacy or sum of three hundred pounds any monies which may have been or may hereafter be so advanced as aforesaid and only to pay to my said granddaughter the residue of the said legacy after such appropriation as is hereby directed. And I hereby declare this to be a codicil to my said will which I hereby confirm in every other respect. In witness whereof I have hereunto set and subscribed my hand and seal this twelfth day of July in the year one thousand eight hundred and fifty nine.

Witness

W Tetley Asenby Lodge, Gentleman

John Edmonds a servant of Robert Stagg

Whereas I Robert Stagg of Dishforth did on the 22<sup>nd</sup> January 1856 make my will and on the 12<sup>th</sup> July 1859 made a codicil thereto. Now I the said Robert Stagg do hereby declare this to be a further codicil to my said will. I hereby direct and declare that in as much as my grandchildren the son and daughter of my late son John Roddam Stagg have now completed their education it is not my wish or intention that any portion of the legacy or sum of eight hundred pounds bequeathed to them in and by my said will shall be paid or payable during the lifetime of my dear wife Ann Stagg. And I hereby further direct and declare that it shall and may be lawful to and for the trustees and executors named in my said will to appropriate and pay out of my personal estate and effects the sum of one hundred and fifty pounds (£150) to and for the education and apprenticeship of my grandson Robert Walter Stagg, the son of my late son

Joseph Dickinson Stagg deceased the same to be paid and advanced by my said executors at such time and place and in such proportions as they my said executors may deem most fitting and proper and best calculated to promote the welfare of my said grandson but without interest in the meantime. On witness whereof I have hereunto set and subscribed my hand and seal this seventeenth day of September in the year one thousand eight hundred and sixty three.

Robert Stagg

Witnesses

Wm. Tetley of Asenby Lodge

William Reynolds Servant of the aforesaid Robert Stagg

Proved at York with two codicils 5<sup>th</sup> August 1864, by the oath of Robert Walton Bainbridge.

Estate value under £7000

The testator Robert Stagg was late of Dishforth died on the 27<sup>th</sup> March 1864

### **Robert Stagg of Hill House, Alston 1878**

This is the last will and testament of me Robert Stagg of Hill House in the parish of Alston in the County of Cumberland, gentleman.

I devise and bequeath all the real and personal estate to which I shall be entitled at the time of my decease unto my son Robert Stagg the younger of Hill House aforesaid gentleman, absolutely. But as to Estates vested in me upon trust or by way of Mortgage subject to the equities affecting the same respectively. And I appoint the said Robert Stagg, the younger sole executor of this my will. Hereby revoking all other Testamentary writings. In witness whereof I have here under set my hand this thirty first day of May in the year of our lord one thousand eight hundred and seventy eight.

Signed by the said Testator Robert Stagg, as his last will and testament in the presence, and in the presence of each other have subscribed our names as witness.

*Robert Stagg*

Witnesses:

*Walton Tatters, office clerk, Alston*

*George Tatters, office clerk, Alston*

Proved at Carlisle the tenth day of August 1878 by the oath of Robert Stagg son of the testator the sole executor named in the will to whom administration was granted.

The testator Robert Stagg was late of Hill House in the Parish of Alston in the county of Cumberland, Gentleman and died on the eleventh day of June 1878 at Hill House aforesaid.

Under £5000

John George Millican

Solicitor Alston

Source: Carlisle Archives

## **Will of Robert Walton Bainbridge of Middleton House, Middleton in Teesdale 1884**

This is the last will and testament of me Robert Walton Bainbridge of Middleton House, Middleton in Teesdale Gentleman.

I give devise and bequeath unto my daughters Emily Ann Pattinson, Lucy Elizabeth Bainbridge and Laura Matilda Bainbridge their heirs executors administrators and assigns as tenants in common and not as joint tenants All my real and personal estate and effects goods and chattels she the said Emily Ann Pattinson contributing out of her share the sum of five hundred pounds to her sisters by way of equality of partition in relation to my past advances to her. And I do hereby nominate constitute and appoint my said daughter Laura Matilda Jane Bainbridge and my eldest son Robert Stagg Bainbridge joint executors of this my will.

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand this sixteenth day of June one thousand eight hundred and eighty four.

Robert Walton Bainbridge

Signed published and declared by the said testator Robert Walton Bainbridge as and for his last will and testament in the presence of us who in his presence at his request and in the presence of each other all being present at the same time have hereunto subscribed our names as witnesses

John Charlton Middleton Teesdale  
Jessie Charlton Middleton Teesdale

Proved at Exeter the thirteenth day of March 1889 by oaths of Laura Matilda Jane Milner, wife of the Reverend Walter Metcalf Holmes Milner, Clerk, formerly Bainbridge, spinster, the daughter and Robert Stagg Bainbridge (of Keverston near Staindrop, Land Agent) the son, the executors to whom administration was granted.

The testator Robert Walton Bainbridge was formerly of Middleton House Middleton in Teesdale in the County of Durham, but late of 2 Stoke Villas, St James, in the County of the City of Exeter, gentleman, and died on the seventh day of September 1888.

Gross value of Personal Estate £4611 9s 3d  
Net value £2575 3s 1d

Robert Walton Bainbridge son of Robert Bainbridge and Elizabeth Walton, baptised at Alston 14th July 1805, married Jane Stagg 4th July 1837 at Middleton in Teesdale. Jane Bainbridge died 19th November 1880, at Middleton in Teesdale, aged 70, newspaper records give the place of death of Robert Walton Bainbridge as "The Grove", Middleton in Teesdale, his and his wife Jane's grave stone is in Middleton in Teesdale, church yard.

### **Will of Robert Stagg of Hill House, 9 Oct 1885**

This is the last will and testament of me Robert Stagg of Hill House in the Parish of Alston in the County of Cumberland Gentleman, as follows.

1. I appoint my wife Caroline Stagg, Jane Guy of Alston in the said Parish of Alston, spinster and Henry Whitfield of the same place office clerk executors of this my will and trustees for the purpose hereinafter expressed and I appoint my said wife during her life and after her death my other trustees or the survivor of them to be the guardian or guardians of my infant children.

2. I give all my plate, linen, china, glass, books, pictures, furniture and all other my household effects unto my wife Caroline Stagg absolutely.

3. I give my daughter Charlotte Stagg the legacy of two thousand pounds to be paid to her on the death or second marriage of my said wife if she my said daughter shall then have attained the age of twenty five years but if not then on her attaining that age but without interest in the meantime and I direct that the said legacy shall be paid to her for her own sole absolute and separate use over which I direct any husband she may marry shall not have any control and for which her separate receipt shall be a sufficient discharge.

4. I give to the said Jane Guy and Henry Whitfield, two of my executors the legacy of fifty pounds each for their trouble in acting as executors and trustees of this my will.

5. I devise appoint and bequeath all the real and personal estate in the United Kingdom and elsewhere which as owner or in execution of any power or otherwise I can dispose by this my will and not herein before otherwise specifically and effectually disposed of unto and to the use of my said wife Caroline Stagg and the said Jane Guy and Henry Whitfield their heirs executors administrators and assigns and I direct that they hold the same real and personal estate (which are hereinafter referred to as "the Trust premises") upon the trustees and with and subject to the powers hereinafter mentioned that is to say.

6. Upon trust in the first place to pay my funeral and testamentary expenses and all my just debts and legacies bequeathed by this my will and also to pay such other legacies (if any) as I shall by codicil bequeath and also to pay all such sums of money and expenses as my trustees shall deem it necessary or expedient to pay or endure in the management of the trust premises or otherwise in the execution of the trusts and powers of this my will, but I especially declare the Personal Estate shall be considered as the Primary Fund for payment of my funeral and testamentary expenses debts and legacies imposed by this clause on the trust premises subject and without prejudice to the trusts aforesaid the trust premises shall be upon trust to pay to or permit and suffer my said wife to receive the rents and yearly income thereof during her life if she shall so long continue my widow and from and after her decease or second marriage (which shall first happen) upon trust as to all that or those my leasehold hereditaments and premises situate at Hill House aforesaid and my field and premises situate at Long Martin in the County of Westmorland (part of the trust premises) for my son Albert Edward Stagg on his attaining the age

of twenty three years or dying under that age leaving lawful issue and upon that trust to pay the legacies bequeathed by the third and fourth clauses of this my will and upon trust as to all the rest residue and remainder of the trust premises for my son Albert Edward Stagg on his attaining the age of twenty three years or dying under that age leaving lawful issue and my daughter Charlotte Stagg on her attaining the age of twenty five years or dying under that age leaving lawful issue the same to be divided equally between my said son and daughter or their issue share and share alike except that the issue of either of them my said children shall take between them the share only which their parent would have taken if he or she had been then living. Providing always that if either of my said children should die without leaving lawful issue him or her surviving then I direct that the share of the trust premises of the one so dying shall go to the survivor. Provided always and I declare that during the minority of my said children who if of the age twenty three years or twenty five years respectively would for the time being be entitled in possession to a share of the trust premises under the foregoing trusts, my trustees may apply the whole or any part of the income of the expectant share of such minor for or towards his or her maintenance and education and shall accumulate the residue (if any) of the said income by investing the same and the resulting income thereof to the intent that such accumulations shall be added to the principal share from which the same shall have proceeded and follow the destination thereof but my trustees may at any time resort to the accumulation of any preceding year or years and apply the same for or towards the maintenance and education of any person for the time being presumptively entitled thereto. Provided also and I declare that each of my children who has attained the age of twenty one years and who if he or she had attained the age of twenty three years or twenty five years as the case may be would be entitled in possession to their respective shares of the trust premises under this my will shall be entitled to receive the whole income of his or her respective share until the same shall have become vested or he or she shall previously die.

7. Provided always that if my said wife shall be living when my son Albert Edward Stagg shall have attained the age of twenty three years I empower my trustees on that event to raise and advance and apply any sum or sums of money not exceeding five hundred pounds of the expectant share of the residue of the trust premises for the time being of my said son Albert Edward Stagg for the placing or putting him in or to any business or employment or for his instruction therein for his benefit or advancement in the world and that whether he shall then have attained a vested interest in his share or not.

8. I direct that it shall be lawful for my trustees at their discretion to continue all or any part of the trust premises consisting of Personal estate in the state or investments in or upon which the same shall be at the time of my decease whether in possession or reversion and however limited doubtful or hazardous the descriptive nature of the property or investment may be or otherwise at the like discretion during the continuance of any of the trusts aforesaid to sell and dispose of or call in or realise the same and lay out and invest the monies to be thereby produced or any other moneys to be from time to time received by them under this my will in their names or upon the Parliamentary stock funds or securities of the United Kingdom or upon Real securities in Great Britain and I direct that the money advanced upon any Real security whether land or

buildings may be to any amount not exceeding two third parts of the apparent value thereof and further that it shall be lawful for my trustees from time to time at their discretion to call in or realise any moneys invested in securities and again invest the money thence arising in manner aforesaid which said several investments and the annual income thereof shall be held under and subject to the same trusts and powers as the trust property for which the same shall be substituted were or would have been liable to under this my will.

9. I declare that my trustees may let any hereditaments for the time being either from year to year or for any term of years at such rents and subject to such covenants as they shall think fit and may accept surrenders of leases and tenancies and generally manage the same in such manner as they shall think fit.

10. I declare that if the trustees hereby appointed or any of them shall die in my life time or if they or any of them or any future trustee or trustees of this my will shall die or go to reside abroad or shall desire to retire from or refuse or become incapable to act in the Trusts of this my will before the same shall be fully performed then and in every such case it shall be lawful for my said wife during her life and after her decease for the continuing trustees or trustee for the time being of this my will or if there shall be no continuing trustee then for the retiring or refusing trustees or trustee or the executors or administrators of the last acting trustee to appoint any other person or persons to be trustee or trustees in the place of the trustee or trustees so dying or going to reside abroad or desiring to retire or refusing or becoming incapable to act as aforesaid with liberty upon any appointment to alter the number of trustees but so that immediately after each such appointment the number shall be no less than two and upon every such appointment the trust premises shall be so transferred as to become vested in the new trustee or trustees either jointly with the continuing trustee or trustees or solely as the case may require and every such new trustee (as well before as after the said trust premises shall have become vested in him) shall have all the powers and authorities of the trustee for whom he shall be substituted.

11. I revoke all former and other wills by me heretofore made.

12. In witness where of I have signed my name at the foot or end of this my will contained in this and the three foregoing sheets of paper the ninth day of October one thousand eight hundred and eighty five in the presence of the two subscribing witnesses.

Robert Stagg

The foregoing writing was signed by the above named testator Robert Stagg as his last will and testament in the presence of us present at the same time and we immediately thereafter without quitting his presence do attest and subscribe the same in the presence of each other the word "will" between the twelfth and thirteenth lines of the second page having been first underlined.

Joseph Dickinson

Thomas W. Dickinson

Proved at Carlisle the 29<sup>th</sup> day of June 1891 by the oaths of Caroline Stagg, widow relict of the testator and Jane Guy, spinster, two of the executors named in the will to whom administration was granted. Henry Whitfield the other executor named in the will having renounced the probate and execution thereof.

The testator Robert Stagg was late of Hill House, Alston in the County of Cumberland, Gentleman, and died on the twenty first day of April 1891 at Dumfries Scotland.

Gross value of Personal Estate £6262 9s 2d  
Messrs J & J Dickinson, Solicitors, Alston

Source: Carlisle Archives



**St Augustine's Church Yard, Alston**





Old Jesmond Cemetery, Newcastle

# Stagg Family Tree



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- 1 General Index Book of the Gov. Co. Page 149
  - 2 General Index Book of the Gov. Co. Page 2
  - 3 General Index Book of the Gov. Co. Page 149
  - 4 Ibid
  - 5 Arthur Raistrick. Two Centuries of Industrial Welfare. The London (Quaker) Lead Company 1692 – 1905. Published 1988.
  - 6 Durham County Record Office Ref. D/BO/B 229
  - 7 Durham County Record Office Ref. D/BO/B 320
  - 8 Durham County Record Office Ref. D/BO/B 324
  - 9 General Index Book of the Gov. Co. Page 49
  - 10 General Index Book of the Gov. Co. Page 207
  - 11 Minute Books of the Gov. Co. 26<sup>th</sup> February 1824, LLC 19. Source NEIMME, library, Newcastle.
  - 12 General Index Book of the Gov. Co. Page 207
  - 13 Ibid
  - 14 General Index Book of the Gov. Co. Page 98
  - 15 General Index Book of the Gov. Co. Page 120
  - 16 General Index Book of the Gov. Co. Page 99
  - 17 General Index Book of the Gov. Co. Page 215
  - 18 General Index Book of the Gov. Co. Page 220
  - 19 Rotterdam City Archive, Access Number 999-09, Inventory number 1840C, folio c166
  - 20 General Index Book of The Gov. Co. Page 210
  - 21 An Alphabetical List Of The Honourable East India Company's Bombay Civil Servants, From The Year 1780, To The Year 1838. Distinguishing, With Dates, The Several High And Important Offices Held By Them During Their Official Career; Also The Dates Of Their Retirement, Resignation, Or Death. Published 1839
  - 22 Arthur Raistrick. Two Centuries of Industrial Welfare. The London (Quaker) Lead Company 1692 – 1905. Published 1988.
  - 23 Ibid
  - 24 Ibid